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Penguins for pupils

STUDENTS from a Stourbridge school have been learning about conservation work on a visit to Dudley Zoo.

Five-two pupils, aged 10 and 11, from Wollscote Primary School attended an hour-long lecture to learn how zoos work together to save endangered species.

The children saw the results of the zoo's conservation projects.

Senior curator Derek Grove said: "One example is our work with South American Humboldt penguins which has won us an award from The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums."

Firm fined on wage blunder

A STOURBRIDGE firm has been fined £400 with £150 costs by Dudley magistrates for failing to deduct child support from a worker's wages.

RAM Express Ltd, of Bridgnorth Road, admitted four charges of failing to comply with a court order to deduct money from Jason Worth's earnings over four months.

Mr Gerry Vahey, defending, told the court that the task had been left in the hands of an 'incompetent' employee.

"Consultation" was carried out before this decision was made.

We had originally hoped to hold this fair closer to the traditional date. However, these conflicted with other events, bank holidays and school half-terms, all of which could have cut numbers to the fair.

"We changed the day to Sunday, because other traders in the town said it was not helpful to their trade. We have done all we can to accommodate everyone in the village."

WHILE fighting for his country in Burma, Frank Ledington got through the days by thinking of his new bride and the baby daughter he had never met back home in the Black Country.

Now the 92-year-old and his devoted wife Joan, 90, of Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, are celebrating their platinum wedding anniversary after seven decades of married bliss.

Their lasting love has never faded, despite them being forced to spend five years apart while Frank fought in the Second World War with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The

Invites by library to families of readers

A NEW reading group at Lye library has its second meeting this weekend.

The next session, which will be themed around animals, will take place on Saturday, February 19, from 11am until noon. The aim is to encourage families, including parents or carers and children aged four and over, to get together and read.

"The main issue we have is that many of the horses are kept on the Wednesbury Oak estate and owners literally have to move them just a few feet and they are over the border in Wolverhampton. "When they are moved on from there, they are moved back to Tipton and the whole process starts again," Councillor Rowley said.

Call Lye Library on 01384 812835 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries for details.

Prison for thug who battered woman, 84

A THUG who broke an 84-year old's nose and wrist after she commented on his "stupid" attack on a Dudley phone box has been jailed for eight months.

Mustafa Shahi, aged 32, launched a torrent of abuse and charged the pensioner in the back after overhearing her remark to a friend about him smashing the telephone receiver against the glass and swearing.

Shahi sent her crashing head first into a shop doorway at Cinder Bank, Netherton, after she passed close by the phone box and commented, said Miss Kate Thomas, prosecuting at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

She also suffered a gashed forehead and two black eyes in the June 19 attack. The woman said in a victim impact statement: "Physically I am not the same and never will

be after this. I have lost the strength of my left hand and can no longer use it to pick up a saucepan or wash bag. Sometimes the pain keeps me awake at night and I have to take painkillers every day."

"I rarely go out alone now, whereas I used to go out to the shops by myself. I am worried when passing groups of young men."

Medication

"But I am a strong-willed person and shall try to put this behind me," the statement concluded.

Shahi, of Swan Street, Netherton, was arrested three weeks after the attack. He told police the pensioner "invaded his space."

Mr Jason Aris, defending, said Shahi was now taking medication to control mental problems.

Switch to Father's Day for fair sparks backlash

Still smitten after seven decades



Frank Ledington and his bride Joan on their wedding day at Wordsley Church in February 1941



Frank, 92, and his wife Joan, 90



Joan when she was just 17



Soldier Frank in Burma in 1942

until he returned when she was five.

"This beautiful little girl came up to me and told me I was her daddy – it was a wonderful moment," Frank said.

After seven years in the Army

Frank, a pigeon fancier and former paperboy, worked as a welder at Brockmoor Foundry.

Joan had a job at Stuart Crystal as a glass polisher, and later on the assembly line at Stourbridge record changer manufacturer BSR.

The couple said they were as much in love today as on their wedding day.

Joan said: "We have always looked after each other."

Apology calls by £11,000 row man

A CARER who lost out on £11,500 when Sandwell Council U-turned on a grant application is demanding a formal apology.

Des Brown, of Tipton, was promised the cash to look after his severely disabled wife Sharon.

The council cancelled the grant on October 1 – the day the money was due to go into Mr Brown's account.

Officers said he should not have been offered it in the first place because he was not eligible.

The 62-year-old, of High Street, says he had budgeted for the sum and has found himself out of pocket as a result of the blunder.

Sandwell Council says expenses incurred will be reimbursed, as long as he provides evidence.

Diabetes

Mr Brown said: "The council has caused us endless heartache."

"That money would have helped me care for my wife and our home while allowing me to provide some extra assistance when taking her to hospital appointments."

Mrs Brown suffers with deafness, asthma, diabetes and a hip problem.

The council's cabinet member for adult care Councillor Linda Horton said the authority had apologised to Mr Brown.

She said: "We are waiting for Mr Brown to provide the council with evidence of payments he has made for his wife's care, which we feel is a reasonable thing to do."

Crackdown ordered as stray horses roam

STRAY and illegally tethered horses in Sandwell could be seized by the council for the first time in nine years after more than 50 were spotted in Tipton.

The authority last rounded up horses from the streets in 2002 and a new blitz could cost £300,000 a year.

Officers issued 32 notices over the weekend of February 5-6, warning owners they had 24 hours to move the horses or they would be impounded. But council

bosses said horse owners were getting around the issue by crossing borough boundaries into Walsall, Dudley and Wolverhampton.

Sandwell's neighbourhoods chief, Councillor Derek Rowley, said: "It could cost £300,000 a year of taxpayers' money."

Treatment

The last time we used bailiffs to remove horses from the streets of Tipton it cost us in the region of £25,000 a month. This pays for the horses to be checked by a vet, given any treatment

they need, transported to stables and cared for, as well as the bailiffs' costs.

If they are not claimed then they are sold off, but this is just a drop in the ocean compared to the bills.

"The main issue we have is that many of the horses are kept on the Wednesbury Oak estate and owners literally have to move them just a few feet and they are over the border in Wolverhampton.

"When they are moved on from there, they are moved back to Tipton and the whole process starts again," Councillor Rowley said.

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School caterers taste success in vital exam



Catering manager Ceri Ward, front, with, catering staff Pauline Aston, left) Lynne Wright, Gwendoline Jukes and RSA Academy kitchen colleagues

CATERING staff at a Tipton school can now boast of becoming the cream of the crop.

The 15-strong team at the RSA Academy, in Bilton Road, have all passed GNVQs for cooking food from scratch, good hygiene and hospitality.

The team of women, all recruited locally, have graduated from reheating prepared food to cooking meals with vegetables grown by pupils at the school, baking fresh bread and ensuring that children have a balanced diet.

Twizzlers

Lesley James, director of business development at the academy, said: "We've been training these ladies to work in our catering kitchen and we're so proud of them.

"They've been doing assessment and coursework to show they can cook fresh food, day in, day out, and they have all successfully passed their GNVQs.

"We don't buy anything in – it's a far cry from Jamie Oliver's campaign to stop turkey twizzlers and chips in schools. They bake bread, cook chillies, curries and pies from scratch."

Stink over pet mess in parks

DOG mess has been building up in Sandwell beauty spots because the worker with "unequalled knowledge" in collecting the dirt bins has been off sick.

Serco, which took over responsibility for waste collections from Sandwell Council last year, has been criticised for allowing dog dirt to pile up.

The number of dog bin collections in the borough has fallen after a worker who used to collect them was injured in a crash.

Parks affected include Langley Park, Corngreaves Nature Reserve and Haden Hill Park.

Carol Chambers, aged 63, of Brookfield Road, Langley, said: "I take my dogs to Langley Park every day. The dog bins have not been emptied, and it is disgusting."

"It has been like this for at least five weeks."

Serco's Adam Fergie said: "Our team member who has been responsible for the borough's dog bins for many years was injured in a minor vehicle accident and took some time off.

"He has an unequalled knowledge of his job."

"We have also put in place additional resources to cover future absences."



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Temps bill tops £5m as council cuts jobs

MORE than £5 million was spent on hundreds of temporary workers by Sandwell Council in 12 months.

The council, which is battling to save £75m over the next four years, brought in scores of temps to help keep services going.

The high-pressure social care departments had the highest number of temporary staff, figures for the last financial year show.

During 2009-10 the council spent more than £2.4m in the adults and

communities department on agency staff and more than £1.3m in the children and young people section.

The agency charges in urban regeneration were more than £817,000 and in corporate services more than £548,000.

Vulnerable

Councillor Mahboob Hussain, cabinet member for improvement and efficiency, said: "I expect spending on temporary staff to fall significantly."

"We took the decision – with the council undergoing

a major restructure and knowing that cuts would be coming down the line – not to permanently fill posts, to avoid having to pay out for those redundancies now."

Now the council's new structure is taking shape, the amount spent on temporary staff will come down.

"Like all organisations, we do need to employ temporary staff for certain circumstances in order to keep essential services running."

"And this has been the case in areas such as social care for vulnerable older people and children."

Transport's key role for region's bosses

TRANSPORT and planning are two of the key areas the new Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership aims to tackle, business leaders have been told.

At the annual meeting of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, LEP chairman Stewart Towe said proposals were already being drawn up for changes in the planning system to make it easier to set up a business.

"It's bureaucratic, it's too expensive, it takes too long and it's predicated on the basis of telling you what you can't do rather than what you can."

Effective

"We'll look at practicalities of planning applications and how the system can be more effective."

He said John McDonough, chief executive of

Carillion and a member of the LEP board, was putting a briefing paper together for a submission to Government about changes in the Black Country.

Speaking at the chamber event held at The Public, in West Bromwich, Mr Towe said the LEP would also aim to improve transport.

"Road space is for the use of all the road users and should not be prioritised to any one particular section."

"That doesn't mean we are anti-public transport, we're pro-public transport."

Labour protest as rent charges soar by 6.7pc

A RENT increase of an average 6.7 per cent for thousands of tenants in Dudley will come into force on April 4, it has been confirmed. The biggest increase in almost a decade for the people who live in the borough's 24,000 council homes was approved at a Dudley Council cabinet meeting last week.

The increases range from £3.37 to £5.50 a week, with the average increase equivalent to £4.52. The move is expected to bring in £5.2 million, but Dudley Council will be allowed to keep only £1.4m, with the rest going to the Treasury.

Council leaders say the increase had to be calculated using central Government's formula based on inflation and the size and value of council properties.

The Conservative housing chief, Councillor David Simms, said he had written to the minister to express his concerns. He said the Government wanted to align council house rents with rents charged by social landlords such as housing associations by 2015-16.

Currently, rent for three-bedroom semi in Dudley with a social landlord is around £20 higher than the equivalent council house rent.

For the opposition Labour group, Councillor Shaukat Ali said: "Can I express our concern in relation to the recent increase of nearly seven per cent at this difficult time and the significant impact that is going to have on tenants?"

Standards

Other increases given the go ahead during the cabinet meeting last Wednesday include service charges at the council's 344 sheltered housing schemes, which are set to rise by 10 per cent to a new weekly charge of £9.78.

Laundry tokens for residents living in high-rise flats will be increased by 4.6 per cent to £1.90, it was decided.

The cabinet was told that there are currently 93 council houses in the borough which are empty and would cost more than £10,000 to bring up to liveable standards.

Councillor Simms said a review was currently taking place to try and get them brought back into use.

Viewers caught without licence

MORE than 220 television viewers in Rowley Regis and a further 130 in Cradley Heath were caught without a licence in 2010. According to the latest figures from TV Licensing, the total figure for the year in Sandwell borough exceeded 3,200. More than 630 evaders were caught in West Bromwich, more than 600 in Smethwick, more than 600 in Oldbury, more than 550 in Tipton and, more than 450 in Wednesbury.

£75,000 revamp of tennis courts

A MAJOR overhaul of tennis courts in Sandwell Valley has begun.

Under the £75,000 plans, the four concrete courts will be resurfaced with artificial grass.

It is hoped that once work is completed, courts in Sandwell Valley can also be used for football and hockey.

Cash for work is coming from funds provided by developers to improve facilities in the area.

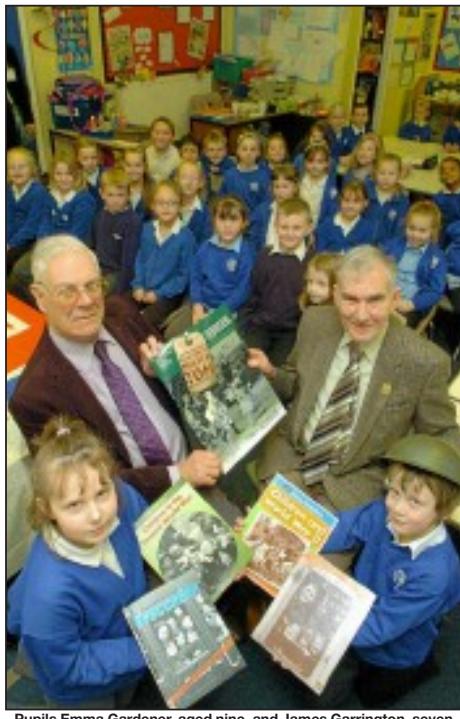
The project was due to start last autumn but was delayed after a play barn project, also planned for Sandwell Valley, collapsed due to funding problems.

John Satchwell, of Sandwell Council's parks and countryside department, said: "When it became clear that the funding wasn't going to be available for the £800,000 play barn project we decided to hold fire on the redevelopment of the tennis courts for a while."

"We now want to move forward to put down the synthetic surfaces to provide all weather courts, set to be predominantly used for tennis and football."

"The first part of work will see the chain link fence pulled down, followed by excavation of the surface."

Friends tell of war evacuation



Pupils Emma Gardener, aged nine, and James Garrington, seven, with World War Two evacuees Barry Fletcher and Harry Spalding

TWO Second World War evacuees took youngsters back to the days of ration books and gas masks when they visited a Dudley school.

Pals Barry Fletcher and Harry Spalding were invited to Netherton CoE Primary School to give a talk about being evacuated from Station Road Board School, in Birmingham, to Flockenham in Worcestershire in September 1939.

Mr Fletcher, aged 80, a retired training manager from Sutton Coldfield, said: "It was sad to leave home, but I was sent to the same house as Harry and we ended up like brothers."

Ex-postmaster Mr Spalding, 81, of Barton-under-Needwood, said: "It was only supposed to be a weekend trial but I stayed away from home for three years."

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Men of steel recall plant's glory days

AN ICONIC Brierley Hill foundry which employed thousands of workers at its height is being celebrated in a new exhibition of photographs and paintings.

The display tells the story of Round Oak Steelworks through pictures and drawings, many created by workers at the plant.

Backed by African drummers, the display was launched by Artspace Dudley at its new premises in Maple Row, Mill Street, Brierley Hill.

It will also offer free arts and crafts classes to residents. The exhibition features photographs taken in and around the foundry during the 1950s along with drawings and paintings by borough artists.

Visitors can also see preliminary drawings of a sculpture set to be installed to commemorate the steelworks being created by Dudley's borough artist Steve Field. The exhibition runs until April.



Promoting the exhibition about Round Oak steelworks are drummer Mike Tinsley, mural artist D.J. and shop manager Edward Cartwright, back

Thief, 30, jailed for string of crimes

A PERSISTENT thief with a "blatant disregard" for property belonging to other people has been jailed.

Farooq Mohammed, aged 30, of Cromwell Drive, Dudley, was sentenced to 24 weeks in prison at Dudley Magistrates Court.

Last week he pleaded guilty to stealing chocolates worth £18, from Iceland in Dudley town centre on Saturday, February 6.

He also pleaded guilty to twice breaching an anti-social behaviour order which preventing him from entering the Market Place, High Street or Churchill precinct.

Licence

Miss Maxine Jarrousse, prosecuting, said staff at Wilkinson's had thrown the shoplifter out of the store just days before he returned to the town centre. He told officers he had stolen to help pay for heroin.

Chairman of magistrates Mr Michael Woodhouse said custody was appropriate due to the string of previous convictions for shoplifting, many of which had been committed while under court orders or licence for other offences.

He told him: "You show a blatant disregard for other people's property."

Father-of-one Mohammed was sentenced to 16 weeks for stealing from Iceland, eight weeks for breaching his Asbo by entering Wilkinson's – to run consecutively and 16 weeks for the second breach, to run concurrently.

Miss Sabia Pathan, defending, said there had been "a degree of inevitability" about the crime.

Two-month delay over treatment for cancer

ALMOST one in five cancer patients in Dudley have waited more than two-months for treatment after urgent referral, new figures reveal.

Health chiefs are blaming problems at Wolverhampton's New Cross for some of the delays.

Dudley Primary Care Trust, which oversees borough healthcare, is expecting to miss its target for waiting times in 2010-11. Latest figures, from October, show only 83.7 per cent of patients have been referred for treatment or surgery within 62 days, against a target of 85 per cent.

The number in Dudley is below the average for the West Midlands, which is 84.4 per cent. Health chiefs said that some of the delays had been caused by "capacity issues" at New Cross.

However, hospital bosses in Wolverhampton said last week that improve-

ments had been made and targets were met in December and were expected to be reached in January.

A report by Dudley PCT's director of finance, Kevin Gaffney says: "The longer waits are for patients referred to Wolverhampton where there have been capacity issues. The Strategic Health Authority and Wolverhampton PCT are monitoring the situation."

Improve

Dudley PCT chief executive Sarah Dugan said: "Steps have been made to improve on cancer waiting targets and we will continue to monitor these areas to ensure that local patients are getting the best possible care from the providers we commission from."

Samantha Turner, spokeswoman for The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "As a Trust we are dedicated to achieving the best possible service for our patients. We are working closely with our partner providers to ensure that patients referred to New Cross are treated as quickly as possible."

She added: "During the year the trust was compliant with all of the cancer standards and we are predicting a similar position for January. Our progress against these standards is reviewed on a monthly basis and it is presented to the Trust Board."

Brick threat man is guilty

A MAN who smashed his ex-girlfriend's window with a brick after threatening to hit her with it has been conditionally discharged by Dudley magistrates.

Darrell Fields, aged 24, of Beeches View Avenue, Hale-sown, admitted damaging the window in Hampton Close, Quarry Bank, between 11.30pm on Friday and half-past midnight on Saturday.

He was given a conditional discharge for 12 months and ordered to pay £150 compensation, with £85 costs.

Miss Maxine Jarrousse, prosecuting, said Fields had threatened to smash his former partner's face in with a brick. Mr Michael Davis, defending, said he was a man of previous good character.

Youngsters have been helping to put the brakes on speeding motorists outside their school in Brierley Hill by creating a questionnaire which will be handed to drivers found flouting the limit.

Pupils at St Mary's CE Primary decided to take action as they were concerned about speeding outside the building in Mill Street.

And police agreed to hand their questionnaire to drivers found breaking the limit in Mill Street. It aims to make motorists think about their actions and youngsters' safety.

Questions include: how would a driver

would feel if they hit a child and were they aware of the speed limit outside the school?

Eight pupils, all members of the school's council, were given the chance to see how police were tackling the issue of speeding on borough roads.

They were shown how to use a mobile hand-held speed camera and helped to clock drivers exceeding the limit by a small amount – around 32mph in the 30mph zone.

Head Anne Maher said: "The children are very proud their questionnaire will be used to help in the fight against speeding."

thechronicle

Work at hall in second phase

THE first phase of restoration work to Sandwell's Grade II-listed Cornreaves Hall has now been completed.

It forms part of a £3 million project to bring the building, dating to 1780, back into use for the public.

The property in Cradley Heath has been empty for the last 60 years, with more than a million pounds of vandalism, lead thieves and arsonists.

However, it is now being developed into homes by Worcester-based GR8 Space.

Stunning

The work to refurbish intricate rendering work on the exterior of the building, which began at the site in Cornreaves Road in October, was due to be completed by December. However, sub-zero temperatures and snow put the work back by weeks.

Since then, teams from specialist conservationists Bonders have been working round-the-clock to complete the project.

Richard Hill of Bonders said: "Despite a slight delay in the repair work due to bad weather at the end of 2010, we're thrilled with the outcome of this stunning building.

"We're looking forward to working on the next phase of the project – restoring the bottom pillars and gate house walls."

Delight as plan blocked

RESIDENTS are celebrating after controversial plans for an office complex at Hagley Hall were withdrawn at the last minute.

The future of the stately hall is now in doubt after owner Lord Cobham said the development was vital for funds.

The application to build offices for up to 200 workers in the grounds of the hall was recommended for refusal by Bromsgrove District Council's planning committee last week.

Local residents have campaigned against the proposal.

Break offers continue as E&S travel shop closes

THE Star Extra Travel shop in Wolverhampton, has closed.

The shop, located next to the Express & Star's main reception in Queen Street and used by readers for collecting brochures and making bookings, shut on Friday. All other arrangements for customers will stay the same.

Departures will continue to be promoted in the newspaper and the telephone number for brochure requests of 01902 319999 will not change. Readers can continue to book their places by phoning the tour operator once they have read the brochure. The advertisements in the Express &

Star will still point readers to the newspaper's website www.expressandstar.com/startravel for further details and readers can make bookings through the website.

In addition a carousel in Express & Star main reception will display brochures. Star Extra Travel staff will also be able to meet customers in reception, on request, to answer queries.

Website

Viv Birch, Midland News Association promotions manager, explained: "The shop was set up as Star Readers more than 20 years ago and thousands of people have

used the facility. However more and more customers now book direct with the tour operators."

"Also, many readers access information via the website and make their bookings online with a link through to the respective tour operator."

"Star Extra Travel will continue to offer readers a great range of travel packages in the UK and further afield, using adverts in the newspaper to show what is on offer and customers should continue to phone us for brochures."

"Readers can visit the newspaper website to get more information and make actual bookings."

Pupils focus on speedy drivers



Pc Paul Roden shows St Mary's Primary pupils Reece Divine and Kirsten DeLaRog how to use a speed camera to stop motorists speeding by their school

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Jobs pledge over new waste plant

DOZENS of jobs are set to be created with the building of a multi-million pound waste treatment plant in Sandwell.

A planning application has been submitted to Sandwell Council.

Construction of the Eagle Recovery Transfer Hub, in Hill Top, West Bromwich, will create 95 jobs and 20 for contracts for nearby companies.

Ten people will be needed to run the plant when completed. Bosses have added that the site also has potential to create a further 779 jobs for companies in the region through the provision of additional services and materials. Serco manages Sandwell's £650 million waste contract. The £15

million Hill Top hub includes major alterations to the road systems, including a roundabout at the junction of Bagnall Street and George Henry Road, to replace the entrance to the Eagle Lane Industrial Estate.

The plant will collect and treat household waste from across Sandwell. Included in the plan is a facility to treat paper, glass, cans, plastics and cardboard, along with a composting facility.

There will also be a biological treatment plant for treating any rubbish that cannot be recycled or composted.

Serco also plans to revamp Shidas Lane Household Recycling Centre, Oldbury, with new offices and improved access for vehicles.

Carers to get advice

CARERS of people with long-term conditions are being invited to a new weekly programme at Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge. The six-week course is designed to give carers a chance to share ideas and advice.

Sessions, held every Monday at 10am, will involve problem solving and advice on exercise and diet, while participants will receive a booklet and CD.

Nurse therapist Ruth Davies and occupational therapist Alison Jinks are running the course. "It's about people in the same situation being given a chance to meet each other in a relaxed environment," Ruth said.

The course is free to attend and the first session is this Monday. Call the hospice, which is based on Hagley Road, Oldswinford, on 01384 443010 for details.

Talks with big chain hold key to recovery

INVESTORS are still being sought for a proposed multi-million pound supermarket in Dudley's ailing town centre, more than a year after the plans were first announced.

There were hopes the scheme in Castle Street, Dudley, would be open to the public by 2013. But despite the delays council chiefs insist the scheme will go ahead and say a number of chains are interested.

The project for a 70,000 sq ft store and 400-space car park is still at the design stage and can not go ahead without any investment.

It is hoped the development will kick-start town regeneration and create hundreds of jobs. Deputy council leader Les Jones said firms were in talks with the council over plans for the site but so far no deal has been

struck. The council needs to attract an investor before development can begin.

Under the plans, Dudley Council Plus will move from its current base in Castle Street to new premises in Flood Street, hopefully encouraging more people to visit that part of the town.

Council bosses want to free up the Castle Street site for the supermarket, which will have a 400-space underground car park.

Optimistic

Councillor Jones would not reveal names of the interested chains as he did not want to "jeopardise" talks.

Though he admitted there was "no firm plan" for the site at the moment, he said he was "very optimistic" that an investor would be found.

Hunt for drowned bid dog owner

A DOG owner was seen tying bricks around his pet's neck and trying to drag it into a Dudley reservoir, telling a horrified passer-by "I can't afford the vet bills".

Concerned onlookers called out the RSPCA after witnessing a man apparently trying to drown his alsatian.

One walker, Sara Blakemore, was strolling through the Saltwells Nature Reserve, Netherton, with her labradoodle Mackie when she passed a man with an ill-looking alsatian.

Wound

Less than an hour later, at about 1.30pm on Tuesday, while walking along the banks of the Netherton reservoir, Ms Blakemore spotted the same man on the opposite shore tying bricks around the animal's neck and trying to push it into the water.

"I was horrified, I couldn't believe what I was seeing," said Ms Blakemore, aged 24, of Birch Avenue, Quarry Bank.

"He was trying to push and pull the dog into the water, but it was growling and barking away."

"The man asked me what I thought was wrong with his dog. It had clumps of hair missing and an open wound at the back of its leg."

"I said 'maybe it was a skin infection' and he said, 'I can't afford the vet bills'."

RSPCA spokeswoman Judith Haw said the charity was "extremely concerned" and appealed for anyone with any information to get in touch on the hotline 0300 1234 999.

'Good innings' for Alice ends peacefully at 105

SHE was born in the same year as screen goddess Greta Garbo, actress Joan Crawford and aviator and film director Howard Hughes – but outlived them all by decades.

Some years before Alice Grainger's death at the age of 105, she wrote down some of her memories of the high and low spots of the Pensnett area where she was brought up.

Born into a mining family in Pensnett, Alice's first husband was Leighton Maybury and the couple, who had five children, ran the Black Horse pub in Lowesmoor, Worcester.

Alice, whose maiden name was Watkins, wrote: "I was born in Church Street, Pensnett, April 1905, which people called Bottom End or the Green Doors, which opened out to the railway.

"This ran from engine sheds to Baggeridge Colliery. Two of my old brothers then worked there."

"The Green Doors were leading to hay fields, pit banks and pools, including Fens at middle."

Several people were drowned in the middle.

"The ones I remember most were two children, brother and sister, which were on their way to Hart Hill School."

On a happier note, Alice recalled picking daisies, but-cups and pretending to be a May Queen in the fields.

"We had no luxuries, shabby clothes, hardly any food but oh, how life was worth living," she said.

Alice worked until she was 70 – until her employers told her she had to leave when they realised how old she was.

For the last 25 years she

We had no luxuries, hardly any food ... but oh, how life was worth living ,

Following Mr Maybury's death aged 62, Alice met Lawson Grainger and they married in 1967.

The couple lived in John Street, Brierley Hill.

Her daughter Muriel Kimberley, aged 83, of Baxter Road, Brierley Hill, said: "After coming back to Brierley Hill, my mother worked for the old BSR record changer factory in Amblecote."

"She had a good innings, although the loss of my mother has still hit us all badly."



Alice marking her 105th birthday last April



Alice Grainger as a young girl



An old family snapshot of Alice

Ordeal as woman savaged

A WOMAN had to have surgery after a savage attack by a bull terrier as she tried to protect her pet in Dudley.

Police have been trying to trace the animal responsible for the attack on Friday, February 4.

The 61-year-old was walking in George Street, Halesowen, when the terrier attacked. When she intervened to protect her pet, the dog turned on her and she suffered severe wounds to both hands.

Chief Insp Mark Bramwell, of Dudley police, said anyone with information should call 0345 113 5000.

Eau what a trip

STUDENTS from Halesowen College enjoyed the sights and sounds of Cologne during a trip to Germany. Language and sociology students visited Cologne Dome, the Eau de Cologne perfume museum and MMC film studios.

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Church dream is becoming reality



Celebrating the first phase of restoration work are Deb Brownlee, Jeff Jewkes, Scott Bicknell, Tony Timmins, Maria Bottley and Michael Amor-Wilkes

FOUR years of fundraising has paid off for supporters fighting to save a landmark Black Country church with the first phase of restoration starting this week.

St John's Church in Kates Hill, Dudley, has been shut since 2002 when it was closed to worshippers due to safety fears.

But now campaigners, who have been tirelessly raising cash to fund repairs, will take the first step towards re-opening the church when work to protect it from the elements begins. Complete restoration could cost up to £1million.

The first phase will see a lightning conductor fitted to the roof and the drains around the grade II listed building cleared of debris and vegetation before the church is waterproofed. Plans are also being drawn up to restore the lychgate.

Architect

A feasibility study is also being carried out, looking at possible future uses of the building and this will be used to attract funding for the rest of the restoration.

There was a community celebration to mark the start of the project yesterday (Wednesday).

Preservation group chairman Deb Brownlee said: "This is a historic moment for Kates Hill."

"Our loyal supporters have waited a long time for this moment, but here we are at last and this is just the start. Hopefully the waterproofing works will be next and we have also just agreed with the St John's Church Steering Group, chaired by the Archdeacon of Dudley, to employ an architect to draw up plans for the restoration of the Lychgate."

Professor Carl Chinn, patron of the preservation group, said he was delighted to "see the dream starting to come true."

MP joins fight over closure of station

AN MP is launching a campaign to prevent a South Staffordshire police station being shut and sold to cut costs.

Staffordshire Police is closing nine police stations to save cash following government cuts.

The station in Wombourne High Street is threatened but Tory MP Gavin Williamson believes residents will fight for it and plans to take to the streets with a petition on Saturday.

Wombourne Parish Council chairman Barry Bond said: "It is vital that Wombourne has a police station, not just for the village itself but for the much wider community that it serves."

"It's not just a place for weary bobbies to rest, but a facility at the heart of the community. The prospect of its closure is a very real concern to me."

Sharing

"I will be looking to make sure they understand local feeling, the police need to know very clearly that people in Wombourne want the station and I am confident thousands will support me."

Chief Constable Mike Cunningham said they expected to cut 300 jobs.

The police authority is investigating the possibility of sharing space with schools, church halls, libraries and shops in a bid to find cheaper places for staff to work from.

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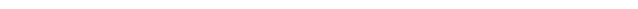
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Scheme 3 - Over 70's

If you or anyone permanently living in your house is over 70 years of age then you will receive cavity wall insulation totally free of charge. If your loft insulation is below 60mm in depth then this could also be topped up free as well. This is not means tested in any way shape or form!!!

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Taxi driver sentenced for passenger attack

Deep holes a 'risk to drivers'

A POTHOLE-cratered main road has been branded a "risk to drivers" amid claims a council failed to make repairs despite problems being reported more than a year ago.

Around 50 potholes opened up in Worcester Lane, between Stourbridge and Hagley, following the heavy snowfall in January 2010.

But despite the issue being reported to Dudley Council no repairs were ever carried out, residents say. The potholes have deepened during this year's big freeze.

Programme

Further reports have been made to the authority but despite some of the holes being marked out with paint no work has been carried out, it is claimed.

Retired school teacher Graham Quinlivan, aged 63, said the holes were "a risk to drivers".

"I personally reported all 50 of these potholes on Dudley Council's website. I received an acknowledgement but nothing was done."

Dudley council's cabinet member for transport, Councillor Angus Adams said: "Any reports of potholes from the public go into our ongoing programme of works for highways patching and pothole repairs, which saw the council fill more than 15,000 potholes during 2010."



Graham Quinlivan with one of the potholes in the lane

A TAXI driver who attacked a passenger for criticising his driving has been given a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £1,250 in compensation and costs.

A bystander joined in the attack on the passenger and his friend, who was knocked unconscious, a court heard.

Taxi driver Abdul Jabbar, from Vicarage Road, Lye, was given an eight-month sentence, suspended for two years, for pulling Wayne Clark from his private hire cab and kicking him. Mr Clark suffered a head wound and needed three stitches.

His friend Ryan Broadbent was knocked unconscious after attacked by bystander Arfan Rauf, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Rauf, of Grange Road, Lye, was also given a suspended sentence and ordered to pay £3,250.

Jabbar, aged 31, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Clark causing actual bodily harm. Rauf, 25, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Clark and Mr Broadbent, causing actual bodily harm.

Unpaid

Jabbar was ordered to pay £250 in compensation to Mr Clark, as well as £1,000 court costs, and to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Rauf was ordered to pay £2,000 in compensation to Mr Broadbent, £250 to Mr Clark and £1,000 in costs. He must also carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.

Recorder Martin Butterworth told them: "Your behaviour was appalling."

Mr Julian Elocock, prosecuting, said the victims and two other men had got into Jabbar's taxi in Stourbridge in the early hours of New Year's Day 2010. They dropped one man off in Netherton and had been heading towards Quarry Bank when Mr Clark described Jabbar's driving as "erratic".

The court heard that this led Jabbar to pull over and assault Mr Clark. Rauf, who was returning home from a night out, joined in and knocked Mr Broadbent out.

Defending solicitor for Jabbar, Mr Afzal Zaheer, said his client had asked the party to leave his taxi and they had refused.

He added that his client was no longer working as a taxi driver and had expressed his remorse. Diljit Bachada, for Rauf, said her client had since avoided drinking alcohol.

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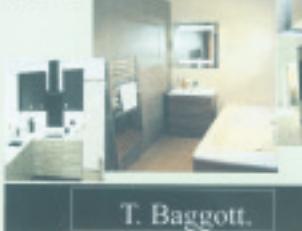


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thechronicle

Nursery is awarded top marks in Ofsted inspection



Youngsters at Tipton Toddlers celebrate their Ofsted report

A MIDLAND day nursery has received an "outstanding" Ofsted report, just months after moving to a new home.

Not-for-profit organisation Tipton Toddlers moved into its new building in Groveland Road in June, after leaving its former home of 10 years, Sacred Heart Church Hall.

Inspectors, who visited the nursery in November, said youngsters are given "an excellent range of experiences, supporting

their learning highly effectively, ensuring they make excellent progress towards the early learning goals".

The nursery, which also offers care for children up to the age of 12 before and after school, had a temporary home at the former Locarno school, before moving into its new premises.

Committed

It has around 80 children on the roll. Between 45 and 50 youngsters are under school age and the remainder are older

children, cared for outside school hours. The number at the centre each day depends on the requirements of parents, with different age groups using different parts of the building.

The report said that "overall the quality of the provision is outstanding" and also praised the commitment of staff.

It read: "The setting is wholly inclusive and each child is valued and respected.

"Staff are well qualified and totally committed to ensuring that the unique needs of each child are clearly identified and met."

£12m is set aside for housing work

MORE than £12 million will be earmarked to help build 80 council houses in Dudley.

Demolition works have already started on site for the first project at Blackthorn Road, Wordsley, where 20 new homes are being built.

Works on the remaining schemes will all begin by March.

They include building 22 new homes in Norwood Road, Brierley Hill, 19 new homes in Wood Road,

Lower Gornal and transforming the former Holly Hall Housing office and Woodside Library into eight new homes.

Details of the project went before last week's cabinet meeting. Dudley Council housing chief David Simms said after the meeting: "I am extremely pleased work is getting under way, it is an exciting time, they are the first council houses to be built in 20 years."

Council housing budgets

unveiled at the cabinet meeting also revealed more than £7m of home improvements will be carried out over the course of the next five years.

Included in that is the installation of around 300 kitchens and 420 bathrooms.

Another £1m of re-roofing works are to be carried out and 775 electric storage heating systems replaced with efficient gas heating systems as part of an £8m home heating investment.

Lawyer's advice is on Twitter

A SOLICITOR from Dudley has helped set up a revolutionary way to get legal advice.

Amanda Robson, from Kingswinford's AJR Solicitors, will be giving advice on [@thelegalaracle](http://www.ajrlaw.co.uk), the country's first Twitter based Law Firm.

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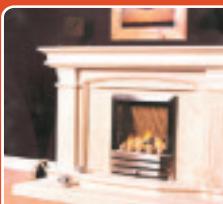
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Blade man jailed after CCTV alert

A MAN landed in serious trouble when he was thrown out of a Brierley Hill pub. Mitchell Priest walked away from the Red Lion, in High Street, but returned soon afterwards with a blade from a pair of shears hidden behind his back.

The whole incident had been captured on CCTV and police were alerted. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard, Mrs Kanwal Juss, prosecuting, said an alcohol test revealed a level of 66, 31 over the limit for motorists. Police also found a

small amount of cocaine in his sock, and discovered that he was already the subject of a suspended prison sentence for dangerous driving.

Priest, 23, of Dreadnaught Road, Pensnett, admitted possessing a bladed article and crack cocaine, and driving with excess alcohol, while disqualified, without insurance.

Recorder Martin Butterworth jailed him for two years and banned him from driving for a further three years.

Bridge down to single lane for repair project

Gift aids guide dogs for the deaf

GENEROUS members of a Dudley Lions group have paid for a guide dog to help deaf people.

Stourbridge and Kingswinford Lions raised £5,500 to fund an animal for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, in memory of Lions member Derek Pitt, who died last year.

The cash will pay for the dog to be trained to alert its owner to certain sounds.

Past-president Arthur Peakman said: "Derek was always very concerned about helping deaf people and we thought this was an excellent way to remember him."

"These dogs can help out in many ways – even if it is just the doorbell or phone ringing."

The cash was raised through events such as quizzes and spot the ball, and Lion Graham Foster generated £1,000 by walking from Stourport to Wolverhampton.

The charity trains 200 dogs a year. Puppies are placed in family homes from about six to eight weeks through to around 12-14 months, when they return to a training centre to begin their soundwork training.



Mayor Peter Miller with Stourbridge and Kingswinford Lions president Rob Owen, fundraising organiser for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Anne Byrne, service user Diana Nutt and her dog, Bruno

A BUSY route through Brierley Hill will be partially closed off to motorists for a month while maintenance work costing tens of thousands of pounds is carried out on a bridge.

Moor Street will be shut between North Street and Addison Road from next Monday until March 21. As part of the project the bridge on the street will be reduced to one lane with vehicles controlled by traffic lights.

Dudley Council spokeswoman Katherine Finney said: "The works aim to protect the edge of the bridge from heavy loads and are part of our statutory responsibility to maintain the highway infrastructure."

"The road layout will be changed to a single lane, which will be controlled by traffic lights. New kerbs and pedestrian safety rails will also be installed."

Mains

"Diversions will be in place and we ask people to bear with us while the work is carried out."

She said that the work will cost in the region of £60,000 which will be funded by central Government via the Local Transport Plan. Council bosses say they will look to maintain access to people's properties when it is safe to do so.

The diversion route will be North Street, Church Street, Bull Street, Addison Road and vice versa.

It has also just been announced that Ebenezer Street, Coseley, will be closed between Castle Street and Birmingham New Road, from next Monday to February 27 for gas mains replacement work.

The diversion route will be Castle Street, Bank Street, Birmingham New Road and Castle Street, Mason Street, Birmingham New Road.

thechronicle

COMPETITION

Put a spring in your step down at the safari park

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YOUR CHRONICLE series has teamed up with West Midland Safari Park in Bewdley and has 30 fabulous family tickets to give away in our easy to enter competition just as it fully opens the gates for summer on Saturday, February 19.

Voted the most popular tourist attraction in the Midlands by children and parents, West Midland Safari Park has some of the coolest animals around in the amazing four-mile drive safari.

There's a fantastic exhibit called 'Realm of the Indian rhino'. And 'Cheetah – the fastest land animal on earth' along with the UK's largest pride of rare and mysterious white lions; stunning white tigers; giraffe as tall as a double-decker bus; famous elephants that can paint and play football; African rhino that freely roam the animal reserves; mischievous African Wild Dogs; North American timber wolves and a mob of pure white wallabies, to name just a few. The wonderful self-drive, all-weather, safari covers an area of four miles and you can even drive around as many times as you like!

Attractions

There's a Discovery Trail with a variety of splendid all-weather attractions such as Twilight Cave to see free flying bats; jumping rats and the extraordinary Aye aye; Se aquarium to view wonderful creatures of the deep; TV Star Mark O'Shea's Reptile World with its incredible collection of snakes and reptiles from all around the globe – who knows you may even meet Mark O'Shea when he presents his special Reptile Encounters!

There's Creepy Crawlers – home to creatures that haunt the night – and friendly animal encounters along with a Sea Lion Show performed several times each day to packed audiences. You can also visit the Hippo Lakes, home to the largest family group – or pod – of hippo in the country, with its wonderful viewing platform high above the lake.

Direct

The Safari Express Train ride takes the direct route from the car park to the amusement area which is packed with all kinds of fun rides and attractions, including some awesome experiences such as the Black Fly! Twister! Wild River Rafting! Rhinocoaster! Zambezi Water Splash and Venom!

Each ticket admits a family of up to four people before the park closes for winter on November 4, 2011. Whilst amusement rides are not included as part of the prize, multi-ride wristbands and ride tickets are available to purchase on the day.

Further information: www.wmsp.co.uk

To be in with a chance of winning, competition (editorial), Chronicle simply answer this question:
 What exhibit at West Midland Safari Park has a viewing platform:
 a) Realm of the Indian Rhino b) Discovery Trail c) Hippo Lakes
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Dudley Castle provided Robert Aston with the backdrop for his novel Jack O'Beans, which is set in the 13th century when the castle was a hive of activity



It was joining battle re-enactments by the Friends of Dudley Castle, like this one with Roger Richards, that helped Robert Aston's research

Hands-on history lesson helped author with novel

Robert Aston with his book Jack O'Beans, which he hopes will give people an insight into the medieval items and attractions dotted around the Black Country and get them looking into local history



An author is hoping to capture the imagination of the Black Country with his novel that delves into the history of Dudley Castle.

Robert Aston was inspired to write after attending a creative writing course at Dudley Library and has since published his first novel, Jack O'Beans.

It is set during the 13th century in the medieval age when Dudley Castle was a hive of activity. It tells the tale of Jack, a young boy who constantly finds himself in some sort of trouble.

The 72-year-old, of Oak Street, Coseley, describes Jack O'Beans as a logical version of Jack and the Beanstalk and believes it should appeal locally as the book is based on real historical events which took place across the Black Country.

Robert was born in Oxford but returned

A creative writing course made Robert Aston realise he had a story. Now he has published his first book and tells **CHRIS FEEHAN** about it

to his Black Country roots when he moved to Dudley to live with his grandmother in 1948.

The author says: "A Dudley based company, John Thompsons, sent me to night school once a week and I decided I wanted to become the student of the year because I heard it meant I'd study at Cambridge University."

He won the award and spent a term there. "The experience changed me, I went from dunce to student and I decided I wanted to become an academic," he says.

Robert went to Birmingham University, where he obtained a degree, and continued to work there as a staff member until retirement. He then took up writing and attended the creative writing course.

He says: "It was a real eye opener I found myself on the course along with 12 women, it was there I realised everybody has a story

and every story deserved to be told."

Mr Aston sent a few episodes detailing Jack's adventures to the Black Country Bugle. The tales became a frequent feature and he decided to turn them into a book.

Robert began researching Middle English and participated in battle re-enactments held by the Friends of Dudley Castle on the castle grounds.

He says: "Joining the Friends of Dudley Castle has made writing the book a lot more hands on, you can really get a feel for the castle and it is amazing how much the other members know about the castle's history.

"There are so many medieval items and attractions dotted around the area and I hope my book will give people an insight into them and hopefully get them looking into our local history."

The book is available to buy from online book stores and some local book shops.

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'We can all settle down once the construction starts . . . it will bring the town back to life'

Shoppers' mixed feelings over development scheme

STOURBRIDGE shoppers have mixed opinions about the current state of their town centre – with views ranging from 'it depresses me' to 'it's a bostin' little place'.

In total 24 retail premises currently lie empty in High Street, Lower High Street, Coventry Street, Market Street, The Ryemarket and Victoria Passage – on top of the seven stores and the old market now closed in the Crown Centre.

"Stourbridge is very sad – it's dying," said shopper **Jennifer Evans**, aged 64, of Bailey Court, just across the ring road from the Crown Centre and the Bell Street multi-storey car park. "It's a great shame the town has been let go."

Her partner, **Malcolm Mountford**, aged 67, said: "I've lived here all my life and we used to have four cinemas in Stourbridge once upon a time."

"You could buy literally everything in Stourbridge – but the atmosphere's just not the same now."

Narrow

And 80-year-old **Iris Bryan**, of Belbroughton Road, Norton, Stourbridge, said: "I used to love our town centre."

"But now I don't come here very often – it depresses me."

"There was a classier kind of shop here when we first came to Stourbridge 40 years ago and there used to be a lovely Queen

Anne window on one of the buildings just up the High Street. But it's just not like that now."

Her husband, **Dennis Bryan**, also 80, who used to be clerk of works in the architects' department at Birmingham City Council, said: "It ought to be pedestrianised – the pavement in the top part of High Street is so narrow I don't know how they get away with it."

"This used to be a lovely market town but nothing that has been done over the years has improved Stourbridge at all."

Dudley Council is talking to Tesco about the possibility of improving pedestrian safety by widening narrow pavements



It's dying – Jennifer Evans and Malcolm Mountford



It used to be classier – Dennis and Iris Bryan



We love it – Diane Rollason and Esther Mandale

along the High Street as part of the Crown Centre redevelopment. Under planning law, the supermarket giant also has to provide cash for other developments in the area, which could fund the High Street scheme.

And the current grim view that some shoppers have of Stourbridge town centre is rejected by others.

Esther Mandale, aged 36, a mother-of-two, of Duncombe Street, Wollaston, said: "I often

come here with my mother for a mooch."

"It's much nicer than Merry Hill, which we find tiring."

"I like the clothes boutiques and can always find something I want here."

Her mother, **Diane Rollason**, aged 61, of Rothesay Drive, Wordsley, said: "It's nice and busy, with a lot of students."

"We are also looking forward to something being done with the Crown Centre."

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Deserted – the old Crown Centre in Stourbridge currently bordered off

Plans for £50m centre look set to be approved

STOURBRIDGE'S long-awaited £50 million new Crown Centre development should get the go-ahead within the next six weeks.

It should pave the way for local traders to ring up an estimated extra £200,000 a week through their tills.

And that is on top of the estimated £1million a week that Tesco should earn from its 60,000sq ft superstore within the scheme.

The president of Stourbridge Chamber of Trade, Peter Cox, said the town had been 'treading water' while there was uncertainty about the future development of the Crown Centre.

"We can all settle down once we know the dates and construction starts – it will bring the town back to life," he said.

Councillor Les Jones, deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "There's no uncertainty about it – it's 'when, not if'. The planning application is likely to go through in the next six weeks and then we can get on with the task of rebuilding the Crown Centre."

Councillor Jones added that Tesco could expect an extra £1m a week through its tills from its own store. "About 20 per cent of customers will spill out into the other town centre shops, which would mean an extra £200,000 a week for them," he said.

"It will be extremely good for niche market stores, with an extra 200,000 people attracted into the town over the course of a year."

"There will be major upheaval while

the development is carried out – it will be a very painful process. But if we don't do something, Stourbridge will die."

Tony Fletcher, corporate affairs manager for Tesco, said it was hoped demolition work, including knocking down the Bell Street multi-storey car park linked to the Crown Centre, would start later this year and construction would begin early in 2012.

"With a following wind we hope to open by Christmas 2012," he said. "Tesco has been looking at this project for a very long time and was thwarted when one developer didn't go through with it – and now we have taken on the plan ourselves."

Clock

"The Crown Centre is in desperate need of care and attention and this regeneration with revitalise the area."

The plans include a two-level underground car park to be built below Tesco's, which would be open to the public generally – but only for use up to three hours at a time.

Dudley Council's existing parking charges would be maintained but customers shopping at Tesco would be able to reclaim some of the cost. Eight retail outlets, as well as the supermarket, are planned for the Crown Centre and Tesco has pledged to retain the existing clock featuring the Stourbridge Lion locomotive and to relocate a mosaic of Stourbridge's coat of arms nearby in the piazza at the front of the new superstore.

Opposite the Merry hill Centre

IT'S a lonely, desolate place – in the heart of Stourbridge's bustling town centre. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the town, another 24

open in the main part of the Crown Centre – surrounded by eight deserted premises.

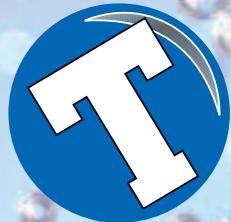
Only pigeons now walk underneath the clock featuring the famous Stourbridge Lion locomotive, which is in an area that

store manager Adrian Rozzier and his nine-strong team at the Cooltrader discount food branch, are ploughing a lonely furrow as the sole retail outlet in the Crown Centre, has pulled out.

"It feels lonely and a bit of a struggle," said Mr Rozzier. "There are so many unanswered questions for our future."

Questions

All of this should be transformed by the end of 2012. In the meantime,



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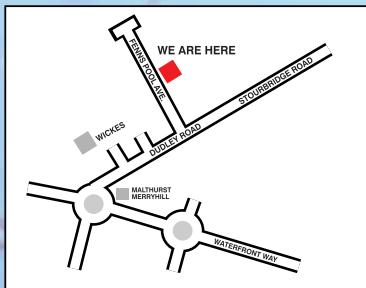
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8ft	2438	312.00	318.00	333.00	340.00	404.00	411.00	427.00	428.00	478.00	498.00	502.00
9ft	2744	322.00	334.00	341.00	348.00	408.00	415.00	430.00	444.00	480.00	502.00	507.00
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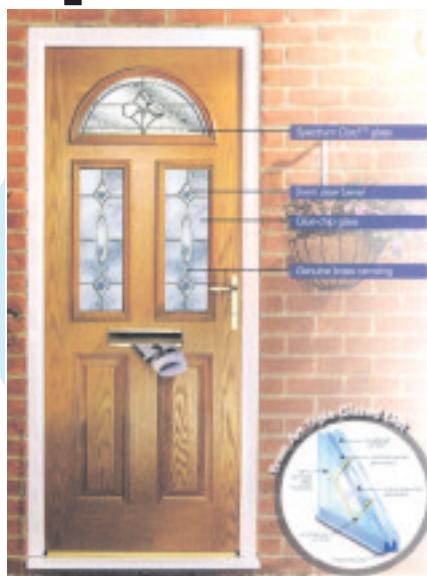
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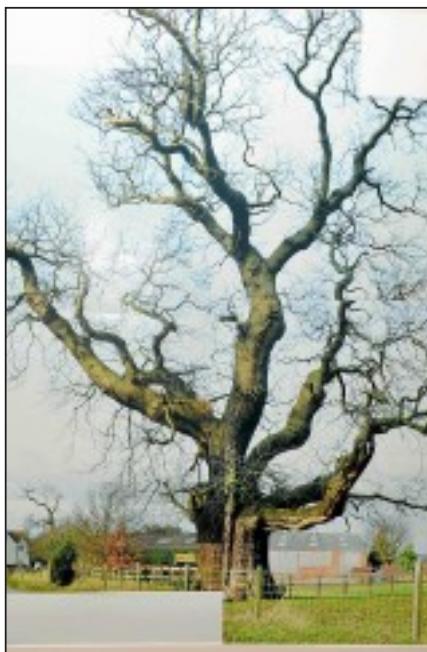
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Museum exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin admires the photographs



Two of former college lecturer Tim Joplin's earlier photographs, the one on the left is of Snowdonia which he took in 1986



Tim Joplin's montage of a chestnut tree and, right, one of his garden photographs, which have become one of his passions

Photographer Tim fulfils display dream



WHEN an undiagnosed abscess left him paralysed from the neck down, Black Country artist Tim Joplin feared his ambition to stage an exhibition had been dashed.

But the former Dudley College photography lecturer was determined not to let the tragedy get in his way – and with the help of friends and family, he has forged forward to pursue his dream of displaying his work.

Father-of-two Mr Joplin, aged 59, from the Dixons Green area of Dudley, was left paralysed after doctors failed to diagnose an abscess pressing on his spine in 2003.

After a seven-year legal battle, he was awarded compensation of more than £800,000 towards the cost of his future care.

One of Mr Joplin's passions is capturing images of gardens. Some of these are included in a range of his work, dating

from 1974 to 2010, on show at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, in St James's Road, Dudley, until March 12.

Mr Joplin lectured at the college between 1979 and 1997, heading photography and media studies.

He travelled extensively in the USA, Europe and North Africa producing images of land and cities, exploring the themes of man and his environment.

Some of these have been included in the exhibition, including portraits and landscape shots.

Since 2003, he visualises the image he wants to capture.

The shot is then taken by a third party, a family member or friend, taking pictures using techniques and angles as he instructed them to.

Unfortunately, they could not dedicate the 10 to 15 hours

a week necessary to help set up a proper studio or take enough pictures needed for a full exhibition. But, following an

Tim Joplin and his wife Ruth at the exhibition of his work on display at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery

appeal, Mr Joplin recruited Wolverhampton-based photographer Jon Lewis as his assistant.

Mr Joplin's wife Ruth, said he was excited about the exhibition and had been really pleased with how it looked when he went to see it.

"It is a selection of his works starting from around 1974 and taking it right up to the present day," she said. "It is

great to see all of the images together."

Through the appeal, which attracted applications from former students, neighbours and medical students, museum exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin contacted the family and offered the venue.

He said: "Over the years Mr Joplin has produced a wide range of wonderfully creative images."

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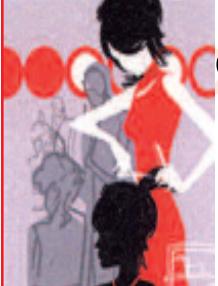
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the pulse

Fighting-fit Shayne will not allow X Factor to fade

Katie has new show date

SINGER Katie Melua will be in concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on April 27, an event originally scheduled to take place in the NIA last December.

Fans can look forward to hits from her first three international best-selling albums including The Closest Thing To Crazy and Nine Million Bicycles as well as songs from her latest album, The House.

Released last in May, her fourth album has garnered some of the finest reviews of her career.

Tickets for her city centre date are priced from £30 to £50. Call 0121 780 3333.



Katie Melua in concert at Birmingham

By Sarah Hazelwood
SHAYNE WARD first graced our screens in 2005 but now he's back after three years with a new album and a new sound.

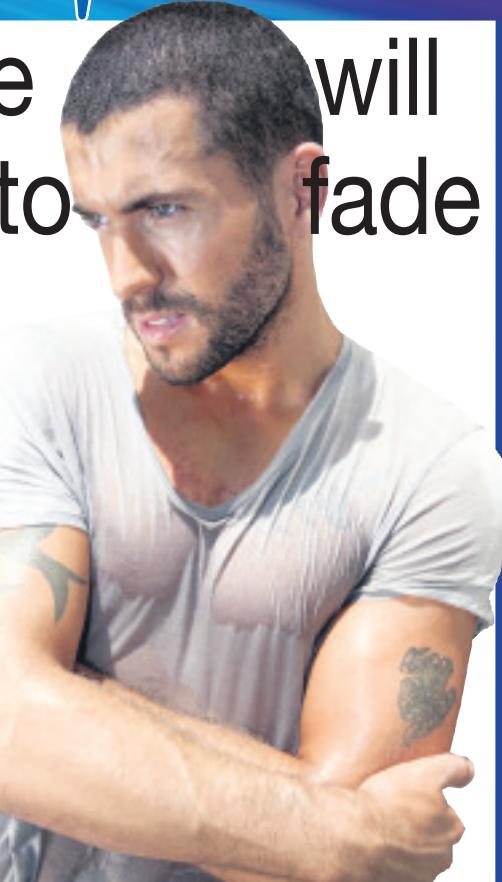
The X Factor winner is kicking off his UK tour at the Wolverhampton Civic, on March 15, following the release of his third album Obsession.

Hosting an array of hits from his first record-breaking single, That's My Goal, to the R'n'B fused You Hang Up, the tour will also reveal a side to Shayne that fans have never seen.

Boasting a more mature sound, with live band instrumentals, this latest collection is a sure sign that the 26-year-old, once branded Britain's version of Justin Timberlake, has taken his time producing an album that truly reflects his vocal abilities and personality.

The Manchester heart-throb, picture right, said: "It is really great to be back, so much time has gone into making the album so I'm looking forward to seeing the reception it gets on the tour.

"Vocally and physically I have never been so strong, I am very eager to get myself back out there and try new things. I felt that it was



important that we didn't just churn out another album because my earlier releases were all a bit of a whirlwind. Obsession is a lot more focussed and experimental.

"I have never been to Wolverhampton before, but I am very excited to perform at the Civic and meet some new fans."

His first album, Shayne Ward,

shot straight to number one and went platinum in a fortnight.

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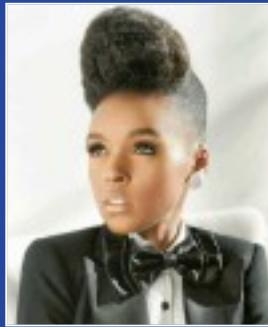


TV listings start
- page xx

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING



Theatre and show round-up - page xx



Reviews and gigs - page xx

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Who dunnit? Audience could have put question to Agatha

MYSTERY writer Agatha Christie's Verdict received its World Premiere at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in 1958 before transferring to the West End - the author herself sat in the audience on the very first night.

Now, 53 years on, the play returns to the Grand with actress Dawn Steele leading an all-star cast from Monday for one week only.

Dawn is best known for playing Lexie Mac-Donald in the hit BBC1 drama Monarch of the Glen and recently starred as Alice Collins in the popular ITV series Wild at Heart, which continues for its sixth series.

She will be joined by Robert Duncan (who played Gus Hedges in the award-winning TV comedy Drop the Dead Donkey) and Ali Bastian, who shot to fame as Becca Dean in Hollyoaks and as PC Sally Armstrong in The Bill. Ali also reached the semi-finals in the hit BBC show Strictly Come Dancing in 2009.

Brilliant

Other familiar faces in the cast include Matthew Lewis, who plays Neville Longbottom in the Harry Potter movies, EastEnders actress Elizabeth Power and 1960s pop idol turned actor Mark Wynter.

Verdict is one of Christie's few original plays which is not based on a novel or short story. It opened at the Strand Theatre in the West End in May 1958, and ran for 250 performances, before going on to New York.

It tells of the brilliant and idealistic Professor Karl Hendryk, a refugee from persecution in his homeland, whose world is turned upside down by a rich young woman student he is forced to give private lessons to in order to keep the care of his invalid wife.

Willy Russell's Scouse musical Blood Brothers, with Niki Evans as the long-suffering Mrs Johnstone, continues at the Grand to Saturday.

Three Phantoms - and one Christine - join



Verdict cast members, from left; Dawn Steele, Matthew Lewis and Ali Bastian

forces for a night of Phantastic music at Birmingham Hippodrome for one night only on Sunday. The Three Phantoms stars John Owen-Jones, Earl Carpenter and Matthew Cammelle, who between them have clocked up more than 3,000 performances as the star of the West End blockbuster, The Phantom of

the Opera. The trio will be joined by the Concert Philharmonic Orchestra, three dancers and special guest Rebecca Caine, who played Christine opposite Michael Crawford's original Phantom.

As well as songs from the Phantom and one from the 'new' Phantom show Love Never

Dies, the concert will also include favourites from Les Misérables, Aspects of Love and Sunset Boulevard.

Matthew Bourne's acclaimed dance version of Cinderella, which keeps Prokofiev's magical music but transports the location to London in the Blitz, continues at the Hippodrome to Saturday.

Pontypandy Rocks at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on Sunday at 1.30 and 4pm with little children's favourite Fireman Sam Live. There is a tribute to the late Roy Orbison by Barry Steele and the Platinum Five at the Alex on Thursday, February 24.

Birmingham Rep's first off-site production, Kenny Baraka's one-hour post-apocalyptic tale The Rememberers, is held in a warehouse at the AE Harris Building in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter to Saturday (box office 0121 236 4455).

On Friday and Saturday (February 18 and 19) Kali Theatre will be bringing their production, Gandhi and Coconuts to The Public in West Bromwich town centre.

Starting Sophia Haque, better known as Poppy Morales in Coronation Street, Gandhi and Coconuts is a witty, playful and poignant play about a lonely wife for whom reality and fantasy begin to blur.

Highlights

British Punjabi storytellers Peter and Gorg Chand tell stories collected and translated from India, with a wedding as the starting point, in Henna at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight (Thursday). Tomorrow night (Fri) at the Arena Flick Ferdinand presents a black comedy about a woman obsessed with equine matters in Horse.

Comedy highlights include radio and TV regular Mark Steel at the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton tonight (Thu). One of Frankie Boyle's favourite comics, Craig Campbell, has sold out his Slade Rooms gig on February 25, as has Geordie comedienne Sarah Millican on the same night at Birmingham Town Hall.

Jason Donovan and Verity Rushworth star in The Sound of Music at Hanley's Regent Theatre until March 5.

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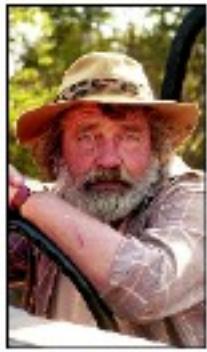
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Choice



WILD AT HEART

ITV1, 8.30pm

When Mike Hart has replaced the fire of Heartbeat in the Royal, it's a mix of a more serious and the sense of cosy Sunday night drama. But it's 10 to 11, he's had a bath in a soft spa for adults, dressed and ready to dine, and nothing's quite about the chase & using thoughts to catch cards. This week, the Poldarks are under a bit of a one-man campaign of vindication in annihilating their neighbours. Poldark, the mining company, Butch, trying to do his duty, because he's been laid off and given a redundancy order. He's off the road on the running side of things while angry brothers now come by to see or on the website for his redundancy.

10am *Deathwatch* (see *The Archers* Man Show, **9.45pm**) *The Big Questions* (see *Countryfile* **10.30am**) *Endocrinology* **11am** *Family* **11.30am** *Extreme to the Extreme* **12pm** *Ultimate* **1pm** *Songs of Praise* **1.30pm** *BBC News* *Regional News* *Weather*

10.45am *Studio One* **11am** *Biggins* **11.30am** *The Artist* *Wintershoto* **12pm** *The* *Access* *Explains* *the* *History* *of* *Watercolour* *Painting*

11am *Countryfile* **11.30am** *Bob* **12pm** *David* **1pm** *Brady* **2pm** *Wicks*

11.45am *Antiques Roadshow* **12pm** *Heartbeat* **1pm** *Countryfile* **2pm** *Bob* **3pm** *David*

12pm *Studio One* **1pm** *Biggins* **1.30pm** *Countryfile* **2pm** *Bob* **3pm** *David*

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3pm *Antiques Roadshow* **4pm** *Heartbeat* **5pm** *Bob* **6pm** *David*

4pm *Studio One* **5pm** *Biggins* **6pm** *Countryfile* **7pm** *Bob* **8pm** *David*

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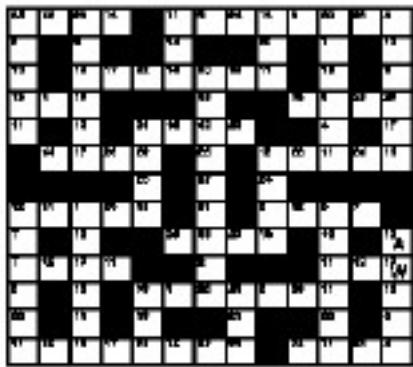
10am *Studio One</*

Brain Gym

No.104

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different one of the alphabet and every letter in the alphabet is used. Use the given hints to fill in the grid of the main grid that you fill.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

E	Y	U	T	I	B	Z	N	G	P	S	Y	A
F	G	D	J	H	L	W	M	O	X	R	K	C

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Double Crossword

Crossword for quicker or cryptic clues, both the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Jason's invention, built in Britain (9)
 2. To get (understood) without noise, noiselessly (9)
 3. 100s of different words in one's vocabulary (10)
 16-17 (10). Person's name, mentioned (10)
 12. The one that runs the news, news, news, they speak the paper (9)
 13. Modern key changes in a single garment (9)
 14. An unexpected dream (10)
 15. When there are difficulties (10)
 16. An unexpected surprise, delight (9)
 22. Challenging without actually challenging (9)

SOLUTIONS

Across

1. EYBUTIBZNGPSYA
 2. FGCDJHLWMDOKXBRK
 13. A
 15. B

SOLUTIONS

Downs

1. This indicates the strength of the wind (9)
 3. A country, usually known (7)
 5. Find this in the annual calendar (9)
 4. Queen Shakespeare's most famous play before this (9)
 9. The 80th St 90th U. Int. is numbered (9)
 6. One 14. Seven (11)
 11. The day or season can be the easy (8)
 15. Bally (9) (6)
 17. Mean or ordinary (6)
 18. A small (6)
 19. 14-8 (6) (6)
 20. The place where a lot of traffic (9)
 21. Cuts a part (9)
 22. Seven of the best (10)
 23. 10-12 (9)
 24. Seven (9) (9)
 25. A rock (9) (9)

SOLUTIONS

1. OUT NOW!
 2. OUT NOW!
 3. OUT NOW!
 4. OUT NOW!
 5. OUT NOW!
 6. OUT NOW!
 7. OUT NOW!
 8. OUT NOW!
 9. OUT NOW!

SOLUTIONS



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Circlegram

Put the 16 question marks with letters so that this is the same within each circle. Can be arranged in four separate common frames. What are the three words and what do they represent by the question mark?

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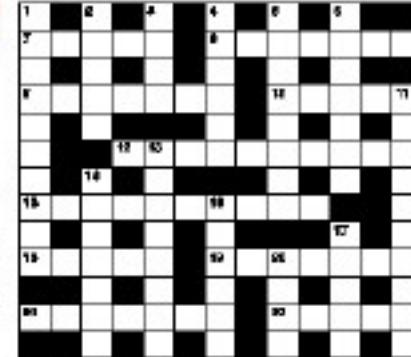
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS
 1. OUT NOW!
 2. OUT NOW!
 3. OUT NOW!
 4. OUT NOW!
 5. OUT NOW!
 6. OUT NOW!
 7. OUT NOW!
 8. OUT NOW!

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below, so that every column, every row and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

Last Week's Solutions
 1. OUT NOW!
 2. OUT NOW!
 3. OUT NOW!

8	7	2	3	9	4			
		7	6	8				
5					3			
		8	6	9				
2	9			5		1		
	4	8	7	5				
7						3		
		1	6	7				
8	1	5	7	6				

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The derilious joy of Janelle

FANS of American R&B have a chance to catch a rising star when Janelle Monae appears in concert at the Birmingham HMV Institute on Friday, February 25.

Her debut album was nominated for two awards at Sunday's Grammy awards, including best album for The ArchAndroid, and the young singer has created a stir with her derilious blend of R&B, acid funk and skewed pop.

No one else sounds quite like her but Kelis, Outkast and Cee Lo Green perhaps come closest.

End of the road

BIRMINGHAM rapper/urban poet Mike Skinner makes his last appearance as The Streets in his home city at the O2 Academy on Friday night, February 25, following the release of his fifth and final



Mike Skinner

Streets album Computers and Blues. The former Sutton Coldfield College student is best known for the 2004 hit single Dry Your Eyes from his second album A Grand Don't Come For Free.

All over for Europe

IT'S The Final Countdown for fans of melodic hard rock when Swedish rockers Europe, who had a massive hit with that song in the mid 1980s, come to the Birmingham O2 Academy tomorrow (Friday) as part of their tour in support of new album Last Look At Eden.



Janelle Monae – rising star

Goodnight Mister Tom... Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

MICHELLE Magorian's much-loved children's book about a wartime evacuee and the grumpy old man who takes him in has great appeal, as shown by the near full house on opening night. Thankfully, playwright David Wood and director Angus Jackson do it justice.

From the opening, as a line of children sent to rural Dorset to avoid the London blitz march along to their new billets to the sound of Gracie Fields song Wish Me Luck, the play establishes a past era where children say 'wizard' and the GP was likely a heavy smoker.

Oliver Ford Davies is gently impressive as the gruff but kind-hearted Mister Tom, a man wounded by the loss of his wife and child many years before, who recognises a kindred spirit in timid young William Beech (excellent young actor Oliver Tritton Wheeler on Press night), whose bruises reveal his mother's abuse.

All she sends with him is a Bible and a beat to beat

Punt & Dennis, Town Hall, Birmingham

THEY first came to prominence on The Mary Whitehouse Experience. But while Hugh Dennis has continued to be a regular TV presence on programmes such as Outnumbered and Mock the Week, much less has been seen of his comedy partner.

The two have revived their partnership for the first time in four years for their They Should Get Out More tour. Disabilities, ghosts and wines of the world were among the topics covered, complete with a lot of audience interaction – and all to great comic effect.

I wonder what Mary Whitehouse would have made of it all?

Mark Shipp

Book: Lily Alone (hardback, Doubleday, 12.99)

YOUNG Lily is left to look after her siblings – six-year-old twins and a three-year-old sister – when her mum goes on holiday with her boyfriend and her step dad fails to turn up. Desperate to avoid school or social services finding out, and wanting to avoid the flat getting too untidy, she comes up with a plan to go on a camping adventure in the park.

An intriguing set up for Jacqueline Wilson's latest children's novel, which the hugely popular writer handles in her assured no-nonsense style, blending comedy and tragedy and prompting young readers to think about responsibility. Illustrations by Nick Sharratt.

him with. Mister Tom's dog, Sammy, is represented very effectively in all its sniffing, tail-wagging canine character by puppeteer Laura Cubitt.

There is a fine ensemble to play the village children and community stalwarts and Max Longmuir shone as ebullient and erudite new best friend Zach.

Matters take a grim turn when William is called back to London by his mother, the set clanking into a change from bright open stage to the boy's dungeon-like London abode. Aoife Kavanagh's Mrs Beech is all the more chilling, played not as a clear-cut villain but as a woman who is clearly seriously mentally ill.

When Tom and William are finally reunited, it is hard to prevent a lump in the throat or a tear in the eye. This is the first production from The Children's Touring Partnership, which aims to present high quality children's and family drama. They have certainly succeeded.

Leon Burakowski

Cooper et al to stand there doing nothing and still have the audience in fits of laughter. With his parody of Can't Cook, Ready, Steady, Bloody 123, which never really formulated into a full title, he tried his hand at wine tasting using his sophisticated Pontius palette, who apparently fiddled while Rome burned.

Staggering around the stage like some geriatric throwback to the great days of variety, the count drags the old format kicking and screaming into the 21st century, lubricating the transition with liberal amounts of wine and various other alcoholic beverages.

You haven't lived until you see him act out facing Dracula and keep him talking until daybreak sees the vampire's 'testicicles' rolling down the hill.

Oh, and should the count offer to let you drain his spuds I suggest you decline – if you can stop laughing long enough. For more information visit www.countarthurstrong.com

Danny Farragher

DVD: Buried (15, Icon)

IF you suffer from claustrophobia you had best avoid Buried, out now on DVD and Blu-ray, but do watch if you like an innovative, against-the-clock thriller. Ryan Reynolds plays an American truck driver ambushed in Iraq and buried by insurgents in a coffin, with only a mobile phone and a Zippo lighter at his disposal. He knows he has a limited amount of oxygen, the battery life of his phone is dwindling, and he is being held for ransom.

Director Rodrigo Cortes's cameras never leave the coffin but make a virtue of their limitations as the viewer empathises with the kidnap victim's utterly terrifying plight... especially when he's put on hold!

Reviews

The Saturdays, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

WHAT better way to spend Valentine's Day than with your loved one – and the five loveliest ladies in pop, Una, Mollie, Frankie, Vanessa and Rochelle even chose their Headlines tour to bring the news of a new tour in December.

But first this one. The concert began with a Duck Soup-style Barbra Streisand register of names from people in the audience. And from the moment the girls took to the stage with the upbeat Higher, the whole place was rocking. There was also a rousing finale in the form of Ego.

In between, all the hits like Up and Work all received a rapturous welcome, but for me the best harmonies were reserved for Lose Control, Puppet and the Poppy Day Single Here Standing.

The quintet – and we all have our favourites – are more than just pretty faces. All can sing and there were well-choreographed dance moves. They also showed they can pace the down with a version of the Eminem/Rihanna song Love the Way You Lie. Two other Rihanna covers followed with What's My Name and Only Girl. Died in Your Eyes saw Una playing guitar.

Video footage filled in between costume changes – there were two of them during the main set – while the girls carried balloons on stage for the Comic Relief single I Just Can't Get Enough. Another costume change preceded the encore, which before the big Ego finish, featured Forever Is Over and Missing You.

Mark Shipp

Blood Brothers, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

DO YOU hear the story of the Johnstone brothers? Which means Blood Brothers is back. This emotional masterpiece by Willy Russell is guaranteed to pull at your heart strings, have you laughing and applauding like crazy.

A mix of drama, comedy and song brilliantly performed by a strong and talented cast. The moving story of twins who are separated at birth and whose lives end in tragedy, is set in the backstreets of Liverpool.

Niki Evans gives an excellent performance as Mrs Johnstone and has a fabulous vocal range. Sean Jones and Paul Davies superbly played endearing twins Mickey and Eddie. Craig Price is a clear and competent narrator. Monroe and, of course, the tear-jerking final one, Tell Me It's Not So, which had the entire audience on its feet for a well deserved standing ovation. Mention must also go to the orchestra and sound engineer for a first class job.

Les Jowett

Chess, Birmingham Hippodrome

THIS was no darrar, darling! Famous for songs One Night in Bangkok and I Know Him So Well, the musical by Tim Rice and Abba's Bjorn and Benny has been choreographed by Strictly Come Dancing's Craig Revel Horwood. It tells the story of two chess masters battling it out for the world championships, while at the same time fighting for the love of the same woman.

And what a show it was! Costumes were both extravagant and raunchy, and the way in which the chess pieces danced around the board was mesmerising. A fine cast of West End stars has been assembled, with performances by Daniel Koek and Shona White among the highlights. Poppy Tierney has a fantastic voice and deserved a bigger part.

Mark Shipp

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Brierley Hill

Smethwick

Stourbridge

Halesowen

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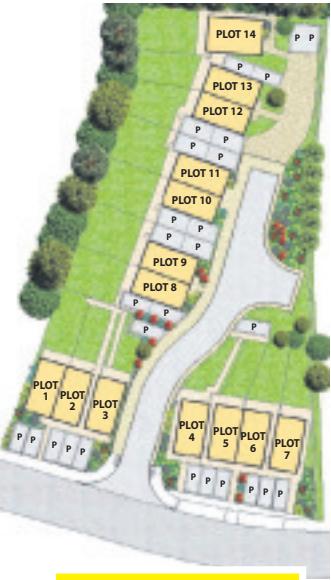
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AUCTION 10 MARCH 2011

AT: ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB @ 11.00 A.M.

135 Lots to include properties on behalf of



Lot 1: Hawthorn House, Hamstead Hall Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 34: 14 Church Street, Whittington, Lichfield	Residential Vacant	Lot 68: The Nags Head, 109 The Green, Darlaston
Lot 2: 38 Sheepley Drive, Rednal	Residential Vacant	Lot 35: 107-108 High Street, Stourbridge	NOT BEING OFFERED	Commercial Vacant
Lot 3: 75 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 36: 42 Clapton Road	Residential Vacant	Lot 69: 108 High Street, West Bromwich
Lot 4: Site of Bath Walk, Balsall Heath, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 37: 2 Castle View, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 70: 104 Holden Crescent, Walsall
Lot 5: Site of The Bims, Arnold Road/Barnes Road, Wockley Castle, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 38: 28 Belgrave Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 71: 105 Ingleby Gardens, Wolverhampton
Lot 6: 150-152 Hillmorton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 39: 24-26 Castle Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 72: 19 Marsh Road, Willenhall
Lot 7: 155 Hillmorton Road, Aston, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 40: 26-28 Castle Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 73: The Royal Oak, 119-121 Hillmorton Street, Darlaston
Lot 8: 23 All Saints Road, Hockley, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 41: 30-32 Burton Court, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Commercial Vacant
Lot 9: Alderlea, 20 Midford Park Road, Bournville, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 42: 6-10 Walsall Road, Darlaston	Residential Vacant	Commercial Vacant
Lot 10: Milton Grange, 16 Handsworth Wood Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 43: 154 St. Giles Road, Kates Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Commercial Vacant
Lot 11: 756 College Road, Kingsbridge, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 44: 3 Rivenway, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Residential Vacant
Lot 12: 86 Mardon Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 45: 285-290 Hanover Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Commercial Vacant
Lot 13: 12 Limperton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 46: The Jolly Coffer, 222 Huntingdon Terrace Road, Chadsmore, Cannock	Residential Vacant	Commercial Vacant
Lot 14: 4 & 8 Planters Grove, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 47: 24 Erdill Road, Kingsbridge, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 15: 1 Primrose Cottages, Off George Street, Lozells, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 48: 19 La Croft, New Invention, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 16: 2 Primrose Cottages, Off George Street, Lozells, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 49: 43 Wanshore Road, Penn, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 17: 8, 16 & 32 Needhill Close, Selly Park, Solihull	Ground Rent	Lot 50: 295 Aldersley Road, Penn, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 18: 3, 9, 10, 11, 21 & 29 Stoneythorpe Close & 6 Thompson Grove, Solihull	Ground Rent	Lot 51: 147 Stringes Lane, Willenhall	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 19: 5, 12 & 22 Hartsdale Close, 1 & 3 Monty Road & 2, 9, 10 & 16 Weston Croft, Halesowen	Ground Rent	Lot 52: 8 Apollo Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 20: 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59 & 108 Scatfield Road & 2, 9, 20, 22 & 24 Barrow View, Bromsgrove	Ground Rent	Lot 53: 22 Apollo Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 21: 8, 55, 58, 69, 71 & 73 Fosseway, Amington, Tamworth	Ground Rent	Lot 54: 7 & 8 New Street, Stourport or Severn	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 22: 1, 3, 19 & 56 Chelverthorpe Road & 47 Holly Dell, Kings Norton, Birmingham & 43 Beacon Street, Bilton	Ground Rent	Lot 55: 55 Blackwell Street, Kidderminster	Commercial Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 23: 15, 20, 24, 32 & 34 Minster Grove & 104 Waseley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 56: 182 Essington Road, Essington, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 24: 27, 28, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40 & 41 Elmwoods Gardens, Handsworth, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 57: 95 & 98 Fernside Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 25: 9, 11, 14 & 16 Denver Close, 67 & 69 Coniston Road & 29 & 31 Lindosa Road, Streetly	Ground Rent	Lot 58: 44 Mushroom Lane, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 26: 2, 4 & 6 St. Albans Close, 6 & 8, 34, 35, 36 & 60 Weston Crescent, Aldridge	Ground Rent	Lot 59: 100-102 Hill Close	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 27: 57, 59 & 61 Moseley Close, 3 & 1 Castlewood, Moseley	Ground Rent	Lot 60: Melfriss House, Langley Drive, Castle Bromwich	Commercial Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 28: 673, 675 & 677 Kingsthorpe Road, Kingsbridge, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 61: 904-906 Walsall Road, Acorns Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 29: 131 Acheson Road, Hall Green, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 62: 32 Katherine Road, Bournwood	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 30: Land Between 110 - 131 Toll End Road, Tipton	Residential Investment	Lot 63: 56 Fairways Drive, Great Mythe, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 31: 168-170 State Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 64: 55 Hyde Road, Wednesfield	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 32: Apartment 3, Broadway Plaza, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 65: 200 State Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 33: Land at 90 Langley Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 66: 11 Victoria Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Development/Redevelopment
	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 67: The Bear St James Lane, Willenhall	Commercial Vacant	Development/Redevelopment

Commercial Vacant

Residential Vacant

Residential Investment

Residential Vacant

Residential Investment

Residential Vacant

Stourbridge Office : 01384 444 645

Netherton Office : 01384 456 022

Lettings Office : 01384 484 222

Residential Sales & Lettings

Commercial Sales & Lettings

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Sales



3 Bed - Harper Grove

Modern, three storey town house of the 'Jarvis' design, having additional features chosen by the current vendor. Being double glazed, centrally heated, with modern white high gloss kitchen, downstairs w.c., lounge and dining room, 2 bedrooms, family bathroom plus master bedroom with en-suite shower room. Off road parking. NETHERTON OFFICE.

Tipton Offers £130,000



3 Bed - Withymoor Road

This beautifully presented, double glazed, gas centrally heated and alarmed, 1930's semi detached family home having lounge, through dining kitchen, conservatory, utility area, conservatory, superb bathroom, rear garden and driveway providing off road parking for a number of vehicles. VIEWING ESSENTIAL! NETHERTON OFFICE.

Netherton £136,500



3 Bed - Molyneux Road

On a corner plot with room enough (subject to gaining relevant permissions) for another property. Having downstairs bathroom plus upstairs wc, central heating and gated off road parking. Viewing a must! NETHERTON OFFICE.

Netherton £104,950



2/3 Bed - Baptist End Road

This charming two/three bed mid terraced house has been totally refurbished and now has a modern compact kitchen, UPVC double glazing and new gas fired central heating. Rear garden with paved patio and lawn. Viewing essential to appreciate size and quality of accommodation on offer. NETHERTON OFFICE.

Netherton Offers £79,950



2 Bed - Birch Coppice

A charming semi detached cottage style property at this popular address offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN being presented to a good standard and comprising: Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility, Shower Room, Landing, Two Double Bedrooms, Courtyard Garden. Viewing via STOURBRIDGE Office.

Brierley Hill £109,950



3 Bed - Bower Lane

Situated in a pleasant part of Quarry Bank and convenient for buses, trains, shops and Schools this well presented detached house comprises: Entrance porch, Hallway, Dining Kitchen, Lounge, Master bedroom with En-suite, Bathroom, driveway, enclosed rear garden with a large modern timber workshop. Viewing essential via STOURBRIDGE office.

Brierley Hill £162,500



2 Bed - Chapel Street

A well presented traditional Mid terraced house comprising: Dining Room, Lounge, Cellar, extended Dining Kitchen. VIEWING VIA STOURBRIDGE OFFICE

Brierley Hill £95,000



2/3 Bed - Woodhouse Way

Well presented property benefiting from refitted kitchen, double glazing, gas fired central heating and off road parking to fore. Being conveniently situated for local schools and amenities, viewing is highly recommended. NETHERTON OFFICE.

Cradley Heath £129,950



2 Bed - Penncricket Lane

A very well presented two bedroom detached bungalow, briefly comprising of entrance hall, dining room, lounge, low maintenance rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing along with a driveway and garage. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Rowley Regis £139,950



3 Bed - Oakdale Road

Deceptively spacious three bedroom property. Two reception rooms. First floor bathroom with separate w.c. Off road parking for two cars. Double glazed and gas central heating. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Oldbury £109,950



4 Bed - Compton Grove

Well presented property benefiting from double glazing, central heating, garage to rear and front and rear gardens. Being conveniently situated, viewing is highly recommended. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Halesowen £132,950



3 bed - Windmill Hill

Traditional property. Three bedrooms. Lounge/dining room. Utility room. Rear Garden. Early viewing recommended. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Halesowen £575 pcm



2 Bed - New Birmingham Road

First Floor Apartment. Excellent Order. Two Bedrooms. Master Bedroom with Fitted Wardrobes. Garage. Communal Parking and Gardens. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Oldbury £550 pcm



2 Bed - Mossvale Close

Maisonette. Two Bedrooms. Kitchen with Built-in Appliances. Car Port. DSS Negotiable. Convenient Location. Viewing Recommended. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Cradley Heath £495 pcm

Lettings



1 Bed - Flat 104 Metropolitan Lofts, Parsons Street

Well Presented Apartment. Open Plan Lounge and Kitchen. Bedroom on Mezzanine Floor. Secure Off Street Parking. Telephone Entry System. Popular Location. NETHERTON OFFICE.

Dudley £475 pcm



1 Bed - Flat 1, Ashley House 150 Halesowen Rd

Ground Floor Flat. One Bedroom. Double Glazing. Convenient Location. Lounge with Dining Area. Laundry Room. Sun Room. Gardens. Tandem Garage. Generous Gardens. NETHERTON OFFICE.

Netherton £395 pcm



2 Bed - St Peters Road

Deceptively Spacious Detached Bungalow. Two Bedrooms. Popular Location. Lounge with Dining Area. Laundry Room. Sun Room. Gardens. Tandem Garage. Generous Gardens. NETHERTON OFFICE.

Netherton £625 pcm



2 Bed - Apartment 3, Rock Haven Belper Row

Modern Apartment. Two Bedrooms. Communal Gardens. Off Road Parking. Double Glazing. Storage Heating. Viewing Recommended. NETHERTON OFFICE.

Dudley £450 pcm



1 Bed - Flat 12, Harrison Court Harrison Road

This immaculately presented modern Second floor apartment situated in Amblecote, comprises of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Double Bedroom, Communal gardens and parking. NO DSS/SMOKERS/PETS.

Stourbridge £385 pcm



3 Bed - Lyttleton Close

Semi-detached. Three Bedrooms. Backwater Location. Conveniently Situated. Two Reception Rooms. Driveway and Garage. Viewing Recommended. NETHERTON OFFICE.

Netherton £595 pcm



2 Bed - Evers Street

An extended two bedroom semi-detached house for DSS/GCH Enterprises; Hall, lounge, sitting room with dining area off and kitchen, two bedrooms and shower room on the first floor, outside there is a driveway and garden to the front and side and a decent sized private rear garden.

Brierley Hill £525 pcm



3 bed - King Street

Three Bedroom, Mid Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Central Location, Close to Local Transport Links.

Stourbridge £480 pcm



1 Bed - Bagleys Road

An immaculately presented, one bedroom, ground floor apartment with off road parking and double-glazing.

Brierley Hill £375 pcm



3 Bed - Pottery Road

Three Bedroomed Maisonette. Convenient Location. Spacious Accommodation. Double Glazing. Early Viewing Strongly Recommended. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Oldbury £475 pcm



3 Bed - Thorne Road

Traditional Three Bedroom Mid Town House - Gas Central Heating - UPVC Double Glazing - Benefit of Parking to Rear - DSS Negotiable | Pets Negotiable | No Smoking. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Rowley Regis £550 pcm



First Floor Apartment. Excellent Order. Two Bedrooms. Master Bedroom with Fitted Wardrobes. Garage. Communal Parking and Gardens. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Oldbury £550 pcm



Maisonette. Two Bedrooms. Kitchen with Built-in Appliances. Car Port. DSS Negotiable. Convenient Location. Viewing Recommended. HALESOWEN OFFICE.

Cradley Heath £495 pcm

GORNAL
ROBERT STREET

Detached Property. Lounge, kitchen/diner, utility area, four bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, garage. Unfurnished

£650 pcm

KINGSWINFORD
RAGEES ROAD

Ground Floor Flat. Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished

£375 pcm

KINGSWINFORD
RANGEWAYS ROAD

Ground floor flat. Lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage, electric heating, double glazing. Carpets. Unfurnished, No Pets.

£475 pcm

KINGSWINFORD
RALFAWN DRIVE

Ground floor flat. Lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage, electric heating, double glazing. Carpets. Unfurnished, No Pets.

£610 pcm

KINGSWINFORD
GRANTLEY CRESCENT

DETACHED Property. Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Area, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.

£750 pcm

GREAT BRIDGE
EAGLE PLACE

Modern Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

£370 pcm

NETHERTON
PARK ROAD

First Floor Flat. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Electric Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished

£350 pcm

ROWLEY REGIS
STUART ROAD

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Front & Rear Gardens

£585 pcm

HALESOWEN
BLAGDON ROAD

Ground Floor Flat. Large Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished. Single Garage Available Immediately

£525 pcm

OLDBURY
MORGAN CLOSE

Modern End Terrace, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Store, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains

£525 pcm

COSELEY
SALCOMBE GROVE

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

£545 pcm

BRIERLEY HILL
DAFFORD VIEW

Cluster Home. Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, unfurnished, off road parking, double glazing. DSS considered.

£460 pcm

DUDLEY
IVANHOE STREET

Terrace Property. Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Patio Area

£435 pcm

WOMBOURNE
FORGE VALLEY WAY

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front, Side & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£650 pcm

WORDSLY
STREAM ROAD

End terrace property. Lounge, Kitchen/diner, out buildings, bathroom with shower, two double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, carpets & curtains, Unfurnished, Rear gardens.

£525 pcm

RUSSELLS HALL
LANGSTONE ROAD

Semi-detached property. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, front and rear gardens, carpets and curtains. Unfurnished.

£510 pcm

TIPTON
HOPKINS STREET

Semi Detached Property. Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished

£525 pcm

BRIERLEY HILL
FOXDALE DRIVE

Cluster style house. Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Unfurnished, Double glazing, front garden, allocated parking.

£450 pcm

WOLVERHAMPTON
VICTORIA ROAD

Terraced House. Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets and Curtains, Rear Garden. Unfurnished.

£575 pcm

DUDLEY
THE PARADE

Semi-detached. Lounge, kitchen, dining room, bathroom with shower, three bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, carpets and curtains. Unfurnished. DSS considered. No pets

£550 pcm

WALL HEATH
ALBION PARADE

Maisonette. Lounge, kitchen, bathroom with shower, three bedrooms, double glazing, parking, carpets and curtains. No pets.

£495 pcm

KINGSWINFORD
COT LANE

Detached Bungalow. Large Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£695 pcm

BRIERLEY HILL
BELL STREET

Ground Floor Flat. Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Conservatory, Large Cellar, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished

£425 pcm

GORNAL
REDHALL ROAD

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished

£650 pcm

K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION

41 FRASER STREET, BILSTON



Well located
Mid Terrace for
modernisation

Viewing:
Friday &
Saturday,
18th & 19th
February at
10.00 am

Guide: £58,000/£63,000

77B STAFFORD STREET, WILLENHALL



Close to
Centre, double
fronted Shop

Viewing:
Friday 18th
February at
12.00 noon
or by
appointment

Guide: £50,000/£60,000

246 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD,
LANESFIELD

Well presented
3 bed Detached,
Gas CH,
vehicular access
via Lane Road

Viewing:
Friday &
Saturday
18th & 19th
February at
10.45 am

Guide: £84,000/£89,000

36 CANTERBURY ROAD, PENN



3 bed
Semi
for
Modernisation

Viewing:
Friday &
Saturday
18th & 19th
February at
11.45 am

Guide: £115,000/£125,000

VIEWINGS OF ALL LOTS
AT OWN RISK

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Viewings are at times specified so,
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you may find your viewing time is
limited or that we have moved
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BRIERLEY HILL Lisko Close	DUDLEY Buffery Road	STOURBRIDGE Tamar Rise	COSELEY Church Road	OAKHAM Dingle Close	BRIERLEY HILL John Street	DUDLEY Merryfield Road
A spacious attractive family home located on the popular 'Close' estate. The house briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, en-suite to master bedroom, garage, double parking and gardens to front and rear	A three bed detached house with extensive gardens to the rear and side. Ground floor comprises of reception room, fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with separate WC. Double glazing (where specified) will feature leaded glazed windows and central heating. Viewing highly recommended. No upward chain	A three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, Lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, second reception room, driveway and garden to the rear	A deceptively spacious traditional mid terraced house with many original features. The house briefly comprises of lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, cellar, three bedrooms on the first floor plus a further two bedrooms on the ground floor to front and rear and a double garage through secure access.	A three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom, driveway and garden to the rear. Viewing is essential.	A modern two bedroom end terraced house with hallway, downstairs wc, lounge, fitted kitchen, driveway and garden to rear.	A three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining kitchen and garden to the rear.
£235,000	£162,250	£139,950	£135,000	£124,950	£115,000	£109,950
TIVIDALE Wheatshaf Road	TIVIDALE Wheatshaf Road	DUDLEY Vicarage Prospect	DUDLEY North Street	DUDLEY Norman Street	DUDLEY Russells Hall Road	BILSTON Lees Terrace
Three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs bathroom and garden to rear	Three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, upstairs bathroom and garden to rear	A three bedroom detached house with lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, good sized cellar and a rear yard area with garage/workshop	Four bedroom mid terraced house with two reception rooms, kitchen and two bathrooms, garden and double garage to rear	An impressive two bedroom end terraced house in immaculate condition with accommodation over two floors briefly comprising of lounge, dining room, upstairs bathroom, downstairs shower room, utility area, dining kitchen and a garden to rear. Viewing is essential.	A three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, upstairs bathroom with separate toilet and garden to the rear	A semi detached dormer bungalow with kitchen/utility, lounge, two bedrooms, dining room, shower/WC, garden to rear and driveway to front
£99,950	£99,950	£99,950	£99,950	£99,950	£95,000 offers over	£90,000
ROWLEY REGIS Mayfield Crescent	BRIERLEY HILL Planet Road	NETHERTON Baptist End Road	OLDBURY The Moorings	ROWLEY REGIS Gorsy Hill Road	DUDLEY Ivanhoe Street	DUDLEY St Marks Road
A three bed semi detached house with double glazing (where specified) and gas heating, two reception rooms downstairs, a fitted kitchen, upstairs hallway, two double bedrooms and a further single bedroom with en-suite bathroom with shower over the bath. Gardens to front and rear.	A two bedroom mid terraced house with lounge, dining room, kitchen with utility area and garden to the rear	A two bedroom mid terraced house with hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen with dining area, downstairs bathroom and a garden to the rear	A one bedroom end terraced house with open plan lounge and kitchen, upstairs bathroom, allocated parking and a garden to rear	A three bedroom mid terraced house with lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and a garden to rear. Ideal investment as sitting tenant.	A two bedroom mid terraced house with lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs bathroom to master bedroom, driveway and garage. Garden to rear unfurnished, available now.	A three bedroom semi detached house having lounge/ diner, en-suite bathroom to master bedroom, driveway and garage. Garden to rear unfurnished, available now.
£89950	£79,950	£79,950	£75,950	£57,500	£54950	£575 PCM
DUDLEY Mayfield Road	WOLVERHAMPTON Cornwall Road	DUDLEY Churchfield Street	DUDLEY St James Road	TIPTON Madin Road	TIPTON Brindleyfields Way	DUDLEY Oak Green
A spacious family home with double glazing and central heating. Two reception rooms, large fitted kitchen, separate utility with wc off, three bedrooms. Available now	A two bed property comprising a lounge/diner with feature fireplace, a breakfast/dining kitchen, large conservatory with views to the garden, house bathroom. Double glazing and centrally heated, unfurnished, available now.	A fully refurbished 3 bedroom end terrace property with lounge and separate dining room, downstairs WC and bathroom. Brand new fitted kitchen and cooker. Courtyard to side of property. Double glazed and centrally heated. Available now for long term.	A modern two bedroom ground floor apartment with open plan dining kitchen and lounge, master bedroom having en-suite, allocated parking and is within walking distance of the town centre. Available now	A three bedroom semi detached house with two reception rooms, kitchen, central heating and double glazing. Available now, DSS considered with guarantor	A modern two bedroom end terrace house with garage and parking. Double glazing and central heating, through lounge/ diner. Modern fitted kitchen. Two double bedrooms.	A nicely presented three bedroom semi detached house. Lounge with sofa, dining kitchen with table and chairs and a built in cooker. Separate utility and downstairs wc. Available now
£550 PCM	£550 PCM	£550 PCM	£550 PCM	£545 PCM	£525 PCM	£500 PCM
OLDBURY , Gravity Mews, Bristall Hall Road	CRADLEY HEATH Mossvale Close	DUDLEY Brettell Street	DUDLEY Nith Place	TIPTON Worsey Drive	TIPTON Regent Road	DUDLEY Gammage Street
A modern first floor apartment having central heating and double glazing. Lounge/ diner, open plan fitted kitchen, double bedroom with wardrobe and storage cupboard. Available now.	A modern coach house style first floor apartment. Having double glazing, electric heating, good size lounge/ diner. Two bedrooms, available now. Viewing highly recommended.	A three bedroom mid terrace house having double glazing and central heating. Two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and separate w/c. Available now, DSS considered.	A two bedroom semi detached house having double glazing, electric heating, lounge, fitted kitchen. Bathroom with shower. Off street parking.	A modern two bed end terrace house, having double glazing, electric storage/ panel heating. Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom. DSS considered with guarantor	A two bedroom semi detached property, having double glazing, two reception rooms, off road parking. Available for long term let.	A two bedroom terrace house having large lounge, kitchen, bathroom, two double bedroom, patio to rear. DSS considered
£495 PCM	£495 PCM	£495 PCM	£495 PCM	£475 PCM	£475 PCM	£450 PCM
DUDLEY Parsons Street	TIVIDALE Oakthorpe Gardens	DUDLEY Priory Road	TIPTON Elizabeth Walk	BILSTON Sunbury Close	TIPTON Worsey Drive	TIPTON Worsey Drive
A two bed luxury loft apartment, fully fitted kitchen inc fridge/freezer, shower room, lounge/dining kitchen, great views. Part furnished, secure entry, video intercom, double glazing. Secure parking available. Available in March. No DSS.	A modern first floor maisonette in a cul-de-sac location. Having good size lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms. Part furnished, allocated parking, available now. No DSS.	First floor two bedroom flat. Lounge and two bedrooms on the first floor. Kitchen and utility on the ground floor. Central heating and double glazing. Private entrance to the flat. Parking available at the front. No DSS. No Pets. Available now.	A one bedroom first floor flat, having shower/wc, fitted kitchen with appliances, plenty of storage. Dss considered	A one double bedroom first floor flat, having shower/wc, fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom. Available now, DSS considered with guarantor.	A one bedroom first floor apartment having double glazing, electric storage/ panel heating. Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom. Available now, DSS considered with a guarantor.	A modern one bedroom ground floor apartment. Lounge, kitchen, bathroom, available now. DSS considered with a guarantor.
£450 PCM	£450 PCM	£425 PCM	£395 PCM	£385 PCM	£375 PCM	£375 PCM



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ELIZABETH GROVE

• Bay Fronted Extended Detached Three Bedrooms•Lounge & Extended Kitchen/Dining Room•Study•Ground Floor Cloakroom/WC•Dressing Area Leading From Bed 3•GCH System & D/G Where Stated•Driveaway

£240,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

ROWAN CRESCENT

•Three Bedroom Semi Detached•Lounge•Kitchen Diner To Rear•Bathroom Upstairs•GCH System & D/G Where Stated•Extensive Rear Garden•Garage/Driveaway For 2-3 Cars

£149,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

NEW BIRMINGHAM ROAD

• Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow • Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom • GCH System, Part D/G • Garage & Driveaway

£134,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

WHITEBEAM CLOSE

• Two Bedroom Mid Terrace • Lounge Overlooking Rear Garden • Fitted Kitchen • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazed Where Stated • Rear Garden • Cul-De-Sac Location

£109,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

LILAC ROAD

• Three Bedroom Semi Detached•Lounge•Kitchen•Ground Floor Bathroom•GCH System & D/G Where Stated•Rear Garden

£55,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

CITY ROAD

•Extended Semi Detached•Two Bedrooms•Fitted Kitchen•Extended Dining/Games Room•Extended First Floor Bathroom•Lounge•Utility Room•GCH System•D/G Where Stated•Rear Garden

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SALISBURY CLOSE

•Detached Residence•Three Bedroom Lounge & Separate Dining Room•Kitchen Enclosed Porch•Ground Floor Cloakroom•GCH System•D/G Where Stated•Views To Fore•Cul-De-Sac•Driveaway & Garage

£169,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

SUMMERHILL ROAD

•Semi Detached•Three Bedrooms•Lounge•Dining Area•Double Glazing Where Stated•Need Of Updating•No Chain

£64,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

BUXTON ROAD

• Two Bedroom Property•Lounge & Dining Room•Fitted Kitchen•GCH System•Double Glazing Where Stated•First Floor Bathroom

£84,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

WOODLAND AVENUE

•Extended Three Bedroom Bay Fronted Semi Detached•Lounge • Extended Kitchen/Dining Room • Ground Floor Shower Room • First Floor Bathroom • Gas Central Heated • Double Glazed Where Stated • Front And Rear Garden • Garage • Driveaway

£164,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

VERONICA ROAD

•Extended Three Double Bedroom Detached •Lounge/Sitting Room•Bathroom •Toilet Downstairs •Front And Rear Garden •Driveway •Garage •No Upward Chain •In a Cul-De-Sac Location

£182,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

OAK CRESCENT

•Three Bedroom Bay Fronted Detached •Lounge •Fitted Dining Kitchen •Re-fitted Family Bathroom •Cloakroom/WC •Conservatory •Gas Central Heated •Double Glazed Where Stated •Driveaway

£164,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

THE BROADWAY

•Three Bedroom Extended Semi Detached •Lounge/dining room, •Kitchen and extended dining room •Family Bathroom/wc •driveway giving access to the garage to the front and garden to the rear •Double glazing where stated and Gas Central Heating System

£165,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

MANSION CLOSE

•Three Bedroom Detached •Cloakroom/wc •Lounge, dining room and kitchen •master bedroom with en-suite shower/wc. •Front And Rear Garden •Driveway and garage •Double glazing as stated and gas central heating system

£189,995 DUDLEY 01384 455000

NETHERTON

DUDLEY

REDUCED BRATCH CLOSE

•Three Bedroom Semi Detached•Through Lounge/Dining Room•Fitted Kitchen•GCH System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Garage•Cul-De-Sac Location•Viewing Recommended

£129,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

HAILSTONE CLOSE

•Three Bedroom Link Semi Detached •Two Reception Rooms •Kitchen •Ground Floor WC •Bathroom •Gas Central Heated •Double Glazed •Garage/Driveway •Front And Rear Garden

£149,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

HEMPOLE LANE

NEW TIPTON

DUDLEY

ST MARKS ROAD

•Three Bedroom Mid Terrace •Lounge •Kitchen •First Floor Bathroom •Gas Central Heated •Double Glazed Where Stated •Front and Rear Garden •Driveway

£110,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000

RACEMEADOW CRESCENT

• Modern Three Bedroom townhouse • En-Suites To Bedrooms 1 & 2 • Lounge, Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room • Garage, Rear Garden & Driveaway

£154,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

BLUEBELL ROAD

•Mid Terraced Residence•Three Bedrooms•Lounge & Kitchen•Ground Floor Bathroom•GCH System & D/G Where Stated•No Chain

£66,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

HIMLEY ROAD

•Extended Bay Fronted Semi Detached•Three Bedrooms•Two Reception Rooms•Extended Kitchen/Diner •Ground Floor Cloakroom•GCH System & D/G Where Stated•Garage•Viewing Recommended

£189,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

10 LET DUDLEY

10 LET TIVIDALE

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BIRCH CRESCENT

•Two Bedroom Semi Detached •Lounge And Extended Dining Kitchen •Bathroom Upstairs •Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating System. Driveway Providing Off Road Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden

£550 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

SELBORNE ROAD

• 5 Bedroom Three Storey Townhouse • 2 Reception Rooms • Downstairs Shower Room and First Floor Bathroom • Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing

£650 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

DARBY'S HILL ROAD

• Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow •Lounge •Breakfast Kitchen •Bathroom •Cloakroom •Front and Rear Garden •Driveaway

£650 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

CLARENCE STREET

•Two Bedroom Mid Terrace •Lounge •Kitchen •Ground Floor Bathroom •Gas Central Heated •Double Glazed Where Stated

£450 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

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*Based on YOUR MOVE analysis of letting branch numbers shown on competitor websites - March 2010.

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ATTINGHAM DRIVE

•An upper floor studio apartment which is beautifully presented having fitted kitchen, lounge area having hidden pull down bed, shower room, electric heating and double glazing. The property comes with allocated parking for one car

£395 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

ST HELENS AVENUE

•A Two Bedroom Mid terrace •Fitted Kitchen •Lounge overlooking rear garden having decking & balcony •Bathroom. Other features include gas central heating, double glazing and parking

£525 DUDLEY 01384 455000

BIRCH CRESCENT

•An Two Bedroom Semi Detached •Decent Kitchen •Ground Floor Cloakroom extension, through lounge having patio doors to garden, gas central heating and double glazing •Rear Garden And Driveway

£550 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

MENIN ROAD

•Three Bedroom Mid Terrace •Lounge/Diner •Breakfast Kitchen •Ground Floor Bathroom •Gas Central Heated •Double Glazed Where Stated •Front and Rear Garden

£475 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

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RODEN BOYDELL

SEDGLEY	LOWER GORNAL	SOVEREIGN HEIGHTS	HIGHGATE PARK	LARKS VIEW	LOWER GORNAL
					
NORTHWAY	COTWALL END ROAD	ATTINGHAM DRIVE	CHILLINGTON DRIVE	RICHBOROUGH DRIVE	COTWALL END ROAD
A four bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a separate sitting room, a dining area, a magnificent kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, a downstairs w/c, a utility room with access to a storage room, a master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating and a pleasant rear garden.	A two bedroom detached bungalow that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a fitted breakfast kitchen, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, gas fired central heating, double glazing, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.	A four bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, a magnificient open plan dining room/fitted kitchen, a utility room, a master bedroom en-suite, three further good size bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.	A four bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge with patio doors leading to the rear garden, a dining room, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen, a utility room, a master bedroom en-suite, three further good size bedrooms, a family bathroom, double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a lovely rear garden.	A four bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge with an archway leading to a dining area, a sitting room, fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a master bedroom en-suite, three further good size bedrooms, a family bathroom, upVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.	A two bedroom detached bungalow that briefly comprises: Reception porch, reception hall, lounge with an archway leading to a dining area, a sitting room, fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, gas fired central heating, carport, garage and a pleasant rear garden.
£231,950	£229,950	£224,950	£222,500	£204,950	£199,950
LOWER GORNAL	SEDGLEY	SEDGLEY	SEDGLEY	SEDGLEY	COSELEY
					
LADBROOK GROVE	NORTHWAY	ASHEN CLOSE	BROWNSWALL ROAD	SANDYFIELDS ROAD	ACACIA DRIVE
A two bedroom detached bungalow that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge with an archway leading through to a dining room, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bedrooms, a shower room, upVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.	A three / four bedroom dormer bungalow that briefly comprises an L-shaped reception hall, a lounge, a separate sitting room, a dining room / bedroom four, a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, upVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a rear garden.	A three bedroom detached bungalow that briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a dining kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, double glazing to most of the windows, gas fired central heating, a detached garage and a pleasant rear garden.	A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge with open access into the conservatory, a dining room, a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.	A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a fitted kitchen, a dining/sitting room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, double glazing where stated, a 33ft garage with a workshop behind and a pleasant rear garden.	A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises: Reception porch, reception hall, lounge, separate sitting room with an archway leading to the dining area, a superb fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, upVC double glazing (where stated), gas-fired central heating and a pleasant rear garden.
£199,950	£181,950	£179,950	£169,950	£156,950	£139,950
FAIRVIEW PARK	SEDGLEY	LOWER GORNAL	PRIORY GATE	WOODSETTON	HURST HILL
					
MANDERSTON CLOSE	ARCAL STREET	THORNLEIGH	RICHBOROUGH DRIVE	PERKINS CLOSE	HOLLYWELL STREET
A two bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a lounge, a spacious dining kitchen, an inner hallway, a downstairs wc, two good sized bedrooms, a bathroom, upVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a rear garden and an adjacent double carport area that provides parking for two cars.	A two bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a conservatory, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, upVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a double width driveway and a good sized rear garden.	A two bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bedrooms, a bathroom, double glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a pleasant rear garden.	A two bedroom mews style home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a conservatory, a fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bedrooms, a bathroom, upVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a rear garden and allocated parking for two cars.	A three bedroom mid terraced home that briefly comprises: Reception porch, reception hall, guest cloakroom, spacious lounge / dining room, fitted kitchen, storage area, three bedrooms, bathroom, upVC double glazing (where stated), gas-fired central heating and a rear garden.	A one bedroom first floor flat that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a bedroom, a storage cupboard, a bathroom, upVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and communal gardens.
£129,950	£124,950	£117,950	£115,950	£109,950	£76,950
TO LET	TO LET	TO LET	TO LET	TO LET	TO LET
					
GOSPEL END VILLAGE	UPPER GORNAL	UPPER GORNAL	PENN	SOVEREIGN HEIGHTS	UPPER GORNAL
A well presented three bedroom detached residence situated close to stunning countryside, beautiful walks and good schools. The property briefly comprises a through lounge/dining room, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a separate wc and a large basement leading to garden with adjacent office and cellar. Upstairs, as well as three bedrooms there is a bathroom with shower. A delightful rear garden backing onto open countryside, garage and off road parking for four cars.	A beautifully presented two bedroomed terraced home with many original features. Situated in popular residential area with pleasant views and within easy reach of all local amenities. The property comprises a lovely lounge with coal effect gas fire, pleasant dining room leading to kitchen with appliances and a downstairs wc. The large bedrooms are situated on the first floor. The property has a secluded rear garden.	We are pleased to have this stunning refurbished Victorian two bedroomed house to let. This property has been sympathetically restored to a high standard and benefits from two lovely reception rooms leading to a newly fitted kitchen with appliances, and modern white suited bathroom with shower. On the first floor are two double bedrooms. To the rear of this property is a neat rear garden. We strongly recommend early viewing of this property.	This lovely one bedroomed first floor apartment is available to let. This fashionable accommodation boasts a large lounge leading to compact kitchen. A large double bedroom and a neat single room are also offered. The property is ideally placed close to the Wolverhampton city centre and are close to all local amenities. The premises are securely monitored at all times. Laundry facilities and on site activities are available to residents and ample off road parking. Please note this apartment is available to over 55s only.	This lovely two bedroomed first floor apartment is available to let. This fashionable accommodation boasts a large lounge with French windows, fully fitted kitchen, a double bedroom, a single bedroom and a family bathroom. There is allocated parking and secure access. This apartment would suit a professional couple or single. Viewing recommended.	A delightful one bedroom first floor flat set in idyllic surroundings with beautiful open views. The flat has been tastefully decorated and boasts a modern bathroom and kitchen with appliances. There is a good sized double bedroom and equally substantial living area, would suit single person or professional couple. The property is close to amenities and the village of Upper Gornal. To appreciate what the flat has to offer we recommend viewing.
£625 pcm	£550 pcm	£525 pcm	£525 pcm	£450 pcm	£425 pcm

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Offers Over £110,000 **NEW**

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, utility area, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

Lane Street, Coseley



Offers Over £135,000 **NEW**

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, family bathroom rear garden, garage and driveway.

Purlin Wharf, Dudley



£75,000 **NEW**

A ground floor apartment with lounge, kitchen, bedroom with ensuite, bathroom and allocated parking. The property benefits from having double glazing

Lilac Road, Dudley



£55,000 **NEW**

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/Diner, downstairs bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Regent Avenue, Tividale



Offers Over £125,000 **NEW**

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Tansley Hill Avenue, Dudley



£135,000 **NEW**

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, extended kitchen, downstairs wet room, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Turton Road, Tipton



Offers Over £120,000 **NEW**

Semi detached five bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, study, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, shower room, front and rear gardens car port and converted garage

Birmingham New Road, Bilston



Offers Over £115,000 **NEW PRICE**

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, separate wc, front and rear garden, driveway and garage.

Smithy Lane, Brierley Hill



Offers Over £140,000 **NEW PRICE**

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising enclosed porch, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway. STAMP DUTY EXEMPT

Salter Road, Tipton



Offers Over £80,000 **NEW PRICE**

End terraced three bedroom property comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

29 Dudley Wood Road, Dudley



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Terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising dining room, lounge, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, rear garden and parking to rear of property.

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Three bedroom semi-detached house, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, garden and driveway.

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Oakthorpe Gardens, Tividale



Offers Over £65,000

Two bedroom first floor maisonette property briefly comprising of Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom and Garage.

Lantern Road, Dudley



£110,000

A traditional two bed end terraced property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, front and rear parking and off road parking to rear.

Winrush Close, Dudley



Offers Over £200,000

This detached house has lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility, downstairs wc, bathroom, ensuite, front and rear gardens, garage and driveway.

New Road, Dudley



Offers Over £80,000

A mid terraced two bedroom property comprising shared entrance passageway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, bathroom and rear courtyard.

Julie Croft, Bilston



Offers Over £140,000

Detached three bedroom property comprising downstairs wc, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN

Belvoir Close, Dudley



Offers Over £160,000

DETACHED three bedroom property lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway. VIEWING RECOMMENDED.

PUBLIC NOTICE



£74,500

1 Northcott Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 9PR. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £74,500 Any interested party must submit any higher offer to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Dixons Estate Agents, 23 Stone Street, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1NT 01384 237313

Summerhill Road, Tipton



£64,950 **NEW**

Three bedroom semi detached property comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

**COMING SOON
Bloomfield
Road**

A terraced three storey three bedroom property comprising study, kitchen/diner, lounge, family bathroom and en-suite. Front and rear gardens, allocated parking and garage to the rear.

Scott Street, Tipton



Offers Over £195,000 **NEW PRICE**

Detached four bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

Oak Road, Dudley



Offers Over £95,000 **NEW PRICE**

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, family bathroom, rear garden, driveway.



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03-03	MERCEDES C180 KOMP CLASSIC SE AUTO	£4995
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'Excite'-ing Astra features include:

- Air conditioning
- Mobile phone system with Bluetooth (excludes phone and cradle)
- 17 in alloy wheels
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02	BMW 318i E Silver; Alloys, PS, EW, AC, CD	SOLD
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03	ROVER 25 1.4 16V 5-dr: Metallic Paint, PAS, EW	£2199
03	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB Metallic Rec, PAS, EW, AC, CD, 7 Seats	£2499
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HYUNDAI	I10 1.1 EDITION 5DR	BLUE	15/03/2010	£8,975	£8,499	£2,476
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Rises in fuel duty mean Proton's GEN-2 Ecologic could be the ideal car for cost-conscious motorists

Switching to LPG can cut the costs

AS DIESEL and unleaded petrol prices continue to soar, Proton is encouraging drivers to consider one of its GEN-2 EcoLogic dual-fuel cars in an effort to reduce their motoring costs.

Simon Park, general manager sales and marketing for Proton Cars (UK) said: "With costs of fuel being driven up, coupled with the increase in fuel duties and the new higher VAT rate, now is the time for motorists to really consider alternative fuel options.

"Combining both the economical and ecological savings of LPG fuel (liquid petroleum gas), the Proton GEN-2 EcoLogic delivers the best of both worlds making it the ideal choice for cost and carbon conscious car owners.

"Priced from just £9,995 for a 1.6 hatchback, the Proton GEN-2 EcoLogic is significantly cheaper to drive off the forecourt without compromising on quality or reliability.

"What's more, it can be run at a fraction of the cost of either petrol or diesel."

Savings

Across the UK, LPG fuel costs around 70p a litre – nearly half the price of a diesel or unleaded – meaning that the GEN-2 EcoLogic can offer great savings at the forecourt.

Mr Park continued: "Because the GEN-2 EcoLogic is sold at the same price as its petrol counterpart, anyone buying one will instantly save between £1,500

and £2,000 – the standard price for installing an LPG conversion.

"As well as this saving – the equivalent of the average annual UK council tax and energy bills combined – the GEN-2 EcoLogic also comes with a full three year/60,000 mile warranty and three years free RAC cover," he added.

"This, combined with an alternative fuel discount of £10 on road tax and the standard new car benefit of a three-year MOT 'break' (saving £160 in test fees), means that Proton drivers can save their pennies."

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*Price shown is for GEN-2 ecoLogic 1.6 GSX MT, manufacturer's list price £11,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. GEN-2 ecoLogic models with automatic transmission are by Proton prior to conversion. *Free leather offer ends 31st March 2011 and is available on GEN-2 GSX models only. Available at participating d

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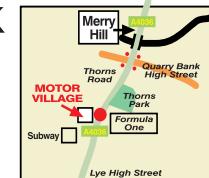
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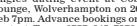
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SPORT

Sparkys produce power

WITH the top two places already sorted in the Wolverhampton Monday six-a-side league it was left to Sparkys R Us, who finished bottom, to take the spotlight as Nathan Ainge led them to a 6-3 dismissal of champions England Lions.

Swan Village Crew despatched Only Here For The Beer 13-3 in the Tuesday Wolverhampton clash, while just down the road in the Brierley Hill Monday it was Tipton Spurs who emerged as the biggest winners of the day, Josh Taylor making sure they saw off Young Guns 6-1.

Pink Gunners failed to drop a point in division one, and don't look likely to as Lee Hall led them home 5-0 against Clinically Insane.

Anyone who wants to join the leagues in Wolverhampton or Brierley Hill should ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

County debut for club

OUR Lady of Lourdes Bowling Club in Kingswinford has played its first county match.

Members represented Midlands County against Worcestershire in the indoor clash.

Worcestershire emerged triumphant but there were three wins for Midlands County.

Number one seed Brian Sable, aged 75, beat young star Jamie Watkiss 14-7 and partnered John Siviter to a 12-8 success in the doubles.

June Morris and David Powell won the other doubles 11-6.

Our Lady of Lourdes host Gilt Edge of Stourport at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Kingswinford, on Friday, March 11.

Run and swim this Sunday

AN ANNUAL biathlon is being held in Halesowen this Sunday (February 20) from 8-11am.

Aquathon involves a 400-metre swim at Halesowen Leisure Centre, followed by a 5km run from the centre to The Grange and beyond.

Swimming distances are being held for youngsters aged eight to 19.

Call event organiser John Batchelor on 07807 338687 for details.



Tui Asi Pito gets to grips with Old Halesonians scrum-half Rhys Holymen



Stefan Shillingford dives over in the corner for the fifth try

Nineteen on the trot as DK find their best form

A COMPREHENSIVE victory at Old Halesonians stretched Dudley Kingswinford's record-breaking run to 19 consecutive league wins.

The league leaders had endured a difficult couple of weeks, edging two tight games, but were back on top form against a side whose previous heaviest defeat this season was by an 11-point margin.

With the injured Ian Langford missing, out came Jamie Ramsey into the back row, enabling skipper Pete Knight to return to the flank.

The opening exchanges were fairly even as the two sides probed warily for openings, but it was DK that drew first blood.

Jon Higgins broke in midfield to feed Tom Weaver who then gave an inside pass to full-back Matt Farrington for an excellent ninth-minute try, converted by Gareth Bow.

The home side were striving hard to redress the balance but DK

matched them all the way and were looking cover, but was baulked by home full-back Chris Hooper who received a yellow card.

DK's pack produced a second try after 34 minutes when they shoved Old Halesonians off their own scrum ball.

Ramsey tore into the 22 before setting up a sweeping three-quarter move that saw Farrington score an unconverted try on the overlap.

After the break Stefan Shillingford looked certain to score when following up a kick through the back row, enabling skipper Pete Knight to return to the flank.

Defenders

Jak Davis was next on the scoresheet, rounding a couple of defenders for a fine winger's try which was converted by Bown for 36-0.

Replacement back Mike Jones powered in for an unconverted try in the corner with eight minutes to go.

The home side had the last word with a very good consolation try on 76 minutes through Spencer Sutherland.

DK host Whitchurch this Saturday at Heathbrook, with kick-off at 2.30pm.



There's no holding Stefan Thorp as he closes in on the fourth try. Pictures: Peter Stinton

Gordon threat to hang up the gloves

BRIERLEY Hill's Martin Gordon has vowed his next West Midlands derby will be his last if he loses to Danny Clews at Walsall Town Hall later this month.

Gordon has been pitted against a fellow West Midlander in seven of his 13 fights so far, but says he will retire if hometown hero Clews wins on Friday 26.

There is no more scope for failure if Gordon is to arrest a slide that has seen him lose eight, draw three and win just two since turning professional in October 2006.

But the 28-year-old could yet turn it around having mapped out a plan of Clews and a rematch with Kristian Laight, who he beat by a point in 2009, before targeting Midlands welterweight champion Sean McKervey.

Twice Gordon has unsuccessfully fought for a Masters title but he fancies his chances against McKervey, having beaten him three times as an amateur with Lions ABC in Dudley.

Gloves

However, should Clews, who has had just one pro fight, hand him a ninth defeat, Gordon will hang up his gloves.

He said: "If I am losing to a raw novice then I shouldn't be in the ring, to be honest. I am not bothered how I do it, a win is a win to me.

"I know I am better than my record suggests, I just want to win something and, at 28, it's do-or-die."

Meanwhile, Sedgley's Tom Bowen is confident of lasting the distance on the same bill.

The 21-year-old will face veteran Matt Sewright.

Bowen is a keen runner and regularly takes part in the Kinver Rotary Action Heart 10km road race, where he has finished as high as sixth.

He would probably have run the next Action Heart race but, unfortunately for him, it's the day after the show!

He said: "I think I will need a rest after my fight! I do it to make my training for boxing more interesting but I enjoy it."

For tickets, call PJ Rowson on 07976 283157.

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Happy Stour's second double

Stourbridge 2
Cirencester T 1

FIRST-HALF goals from Leon Broadhurst and Drew Canavan enabled the Glassboys to record their second league double of the season on a day when both sides blew opportunities from the penalty spot.

Stourbridge pushed in the opening minutes with Nathan Bennett having a shot blocked and Ryan Rowe subsequently firing into the side-netting.

Cirencester replied and Zac Westlake might have done better with a header that provided an easy save for Lewis Solly.

They threatened again on 11 minutes as Tom Etheridge delivered a long throw-in from the right into the penalty area where Jody Bevan could only direct a header wide.

Rebound

The Glassboys hit back three minutes later as Rowe found Sam Rock whose low shot was blocked by the legs of Matt Bulman with Rock hitting the rebound wide.

On 33 minutes Cirencester were awarded a penalty after Rob Hoskin was tripped by Paul McCone but Solly went the right way to parry Mark Draycott's spot-kick and Sean Wood screwed the rebound past the post.

Stourbridge made the most of their let-off by grabbing the lead within a couple of minutes.

Paul Lloyd and Rowe combined to set up Broadhurst to stroke a side-foot shot just inside Bulman's right-hand post.

It got even better for the hosts on the stroke of half-time when Rowe rolled the ball across to Bulman who scored.

Cirencester got one back in the 49th minute, Matt Sysun tucking the ball away. With three minutes left Rowe was brought down by Billingham to put his spot-kick too high.

Girls fight back for draw

Withymoor Colts 3 Sedgley Girls 3

SEDGLEY took the lead with a solo effort from Phoebe Coxon for Withymoor to storm back and lead 3-1 at half-time.

Jessica Taylor, on her debut for Sedgley, reduced the arrears after the break from six yards out.

Both teams had chances but it was Sedgley who grabbed a draw when Bethany Male notched a spectacular left-footed effort.

ROBINS RELIANT ON DARBY GOAL

Wellington 0 Dudley Town 1

DUDLEY TOWN'S revitalisation under Neil Perks continued with an impressive 1-0 win at Wellington.

The result marked The Robins' first clean sheet on the road since their 6-0 victory at Wolverhampton Casuals last April and secured the team's mid-table position.

Manager Perks, rocked by the news of captain Ricky Martin's decision to leave the club, was left with a selection headache compounded by the unavailability of several first team players.

Bruce bonus as the Yeltz win at last

Banbury United 0 Halesowen Town 2

ANTHONY BRUCE'S birthday brace lifted hard-working Halesowen off the bottom of the table with a welcome win at Banbury.

Bruce celebrated his 21st birthday in fine style as the Yeltz bounced back from a run of seven league defeats to register their first league victory since November.

Chris Godwin made a surprise return at the heart of the defence after the briefest of spells at Daventry and was kept busy early on as Banbury laid siege.

Halesowen gradually found their feet and broke away in the 15th minute, only for home goalkeeper Joe Murrell to make a fine blocking save from Bruce's opening.

Range

But Bruce gave the Yeltz a shock lead after 25 minutes by turning home from close range after Justin Nisbett did well to square the ball across goal.

Marvin Martin converted a rebound for the Puritans five minutes later after Simon Flower made an excellent save from Declan Benjamin's drive, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

Flower's fine form continued with a good save low down from home captain Delroy Gordon.

But it was Halesowen who scored next when Bruce put the icing on his birthday cake just after the break by rising to head home McGrath's corner. The Yeltz then defended resolutely to the delight of their fans.

Flower's fine form continued with a good save low down from home captain Delroy Gordon.

It was Halesowen who scored next when Bruce put the icing on his birthday cake just after the break by rising to head home McGrath's corner.

The Yeltz then defended resolutely to the delight of their fans.

However, he was buoyed by the return of defender George Reeves and also included new signing Danny Bell, from Bustleholme, in the starting XI.

The struggling hosts were without a home victory since September but they forged the game's first chance when Steve Brotherhood blasted wide when through on goal.

Dudley thanks partly to the lively Bell, got themselves more and more into the game as the half progressed.

He linked up with Ricki Duley in the 22nd minute to set up Alex Perry, but the young centre-forward could only place the ball over the crossbar.

Exchanges

Perry could have made amends for his miss soon after when he released James Darby, but some solid defending from Craig Green and Dave Withers stopped the midfielder in his tracks.

The Robins looked the better side in the opening exchanges of the second half and Bell again proved dangerous with a fine cross that just evaded Ricki Duley.

On 62 minutes the Robins broke the deadlock with Ricki Duley's pinpoint cross finding Darby who coolly converted past Matt Eden.

Soaked

Dudley's defence soaked up any pressure Wellington threw at them and the addition of the experienced Chris Jones certainly helped their cause.

The home side did have the ball in the net when Matt Williams placed the ball beyond Rodgers but his effort was ruled out for offside.

With just seconds to go a Rodgers parry fell right at the feet of Williams, only for a solid tackle from Whitley to prevent an equaliser.

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0800 073 0282 bskills.org enquiries@bskills.org
For information on courses please contact us:

Training on Your Doorstep! Gas, Plumbing & Electrical



Training Works



Energy Training Centre

Don't waste your energy looking for gas, electrical and plumbing training anywhere else! Based in Ham Lane, Kingswinford, Business Skills' Energy Training Centre is one of the region's leading gas, electrical, plumbing and renewable technologies training and assessment centres in the West Midlands.

The centre, which is approved by NICEIC, NET, BPEC, CITB Construction Skills and City & Guilds, is equipped with state of the art training and assessment facilities to offer realistic working environments for all trades.

The team at the Energy Training Centre has over 300 years of collective experience behind them so can offer you skills gained over a number of years and across a wide range of assessment and qualifications.

Get a Free Skills Analysis!

Effective training in the workplace brings increased productivity leading to increased competitiveness, improved customer service skills leading to increased sales and customer loyalty and greater satisfaction and motivation leading to improved staff retention. Business Skills is offering your business a completely impartial, free and independent skills needs analysis to identify what skills your business needs and advice on current funding and training initiatives.

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Business Skills is the employer training arm of Stourbridge College offering a wide range of training courses and advice for people who are keen to improve their career prospects, build on their professional or personal development, pursue higher level skills, find an apprenticeship or get back into work through training.

Covering the Black Country and wider West Midlands, Business Skills was set up in 2007 to focus on providing training for local businesses and employers and now works with over 1,000 employers in the region including Carillion, the British Army, Westfield and West Midlands Police and was the first Black Country college to be awarded the Training Quality Standard. Employing 50 people based in Kidderminster, there's a professional sales team on hand to give advice and guidance on a wide range of courses - some of which are still funded!

Kim Babb, Director at Business Skills, said: "We are a Black Country Chamber Patron and have worked very successfully with lots of local and national employers including Mansell, Debenhams, Ryman's, Fitness First, The Village Hotels, Carillion, Worcester Bosch and Calor Gas. Investing in training both for current and future employees - especially in apprenticeships - is vital to the success of any organisation."

Book and pay for training courses online on the Business Skills website - www.bsksills.org and follow us on Twitter to be the first to get updates on special offers and discounts. Courses on offer range from Leadership & Management, IT, Retail, Health & Safety through to Gas & Electric, Construction, Plumbing and Environmental Technologies.

Conference rooms for hire

Business Skills has a recently refurbished training centre in Kidderminster offering training and conference rooms for hire. We have a range of facilities including free Wi-Fi throughout the building, vending machine refreshments and comfortable break out spaces as well as free parking.

In terms of Gas Training - we wrote the book. One member of staff, John Hazlehurst, has re-written and edited the famous Tolley series of books and is written proof that you won't get better gas training anywhere in the region!

John, from Wombourne, has researched and updated Volume 1 - Tolley's Basic Science & Practice of Gas Service, Volume 2 - Domestic Gas Installation Practice and Volume 3 - Tolley's Industrial & Commercial Gas and Installation Practice.

He said: "The books are really useful for people new to the gas industry as they cover the whole job competencies, including the wider health and safety issues and customer service not just the technical aspects. They are also a valuable source of reference to people teaching gas related courses."



Apprentices go further



The Energy Training Centre recently won a contract to train apprentices from all over the country on behalf of Worcester Bosch - the market leader in domestic heating and hot water systems.

Fifteen apprentices were chosen from a short list of over 300, with Stourbridge College driving forward the interview process by putting the candidates through key skills and practical assessments. All fifteen are now studying Level 3 Gas Maintenance at the Energy Training Centre in Kingswinford.

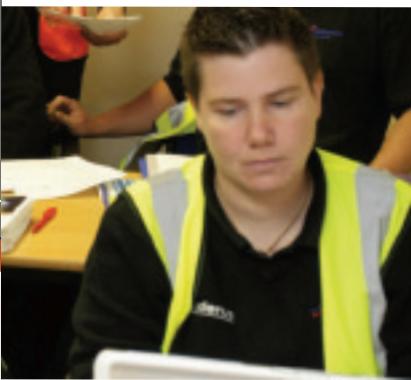
The apprentices are aged between 18 and 33, proving that apprenticeships can cover a range of age groups, not just school leavers - and they can suit both men and women!

Electricians get switched on



Electrical Installation Level 3 apprentice, Thomas Jennings, took third place at the regional JTL Apprenticeship Training Awards held at Aston Villa Football Club recently for achieving a high standard of academic and technical competence within the electrical profession. Thomas started as a Level 1 apprentice with Stourbridge College and has shown that he's a bright spark! Andrew Ashford, another apprentice, was also nominated.

JTL's Regional Manager, Kevin Newell, said: *"The JTL Regional Awards celebrate the achievements of JTL apprentices, their colleges and employers who are providing vital skills for the future despite the difficult economic climate. JTL has a long standing partnership with Stourbridge College and it's a great tribute to them that Thomas and Andrew, also nominated, are in the top two per cent of JTL apprentices in England and Wales."*



Jane Davenport, attends one of the classroom based workshops.

JANE RE-IGNITES HER CAREER IN THE GAS INDUSTRY

Jane Davenport, 33, re-ignited her career when she switched from electric to gas after being made redundant. She started in the industry as a gas apprentice, but was made redundant when the economy started to flounder a few years ago. She was transferred to electric meter servicing but was so fired up about a career in gas she continued to look for ways to get back into the industry.

She said: *"I didn't enjoy electric meter servicing as much but knew I would struggle to finance extra gas training myself. When the Worcester Bosch apprenticeship scheme came up I saw it as an excellent opportunity to work and train with a large reputable company. Apprenticeships are a great way to learn, not only do our course fees get paid, we get paid to learn which is a bonus!"*

When she's qualified as a Service and Breakdown Engineer she will relocate to Mid Wales. The Level 3 Gas Maintenance course involves theory work, classroom based workshops and apprentices shadow a qualified engineer to learn the job hands on.

Employer gets fired up about our gas training



Don't take our word for it. The Energy Training Centre has trained 100s of people over the last year, including apprentices for Connaught's, FJ Jones, Dudley, JTL, Mansell and Sandwell MBC as well as a large number of independent and small business owners. In the past, our customers have travelled from as far afield as Carlisle and Exeter for training.

Kevin Stevens, Director at the Energy Training Centre, said: *"We have recently won a contract to deliver the gas training apprentice scheme for Worcester Bosch and we have just begun to work with Calor Gas by offering additional skills training for their newly qualified apprentices. Employer links are vital for apprenticeship training and it's our aim to continue to build and strengthen our relationships for the benefit of the industry as a whole."*

Gary Peckham, Business Development Manager for Calor Gas, said: *"Our apprentices are currently topping up their apprenticeship skills at the Energy Training Centre and I'm really impressed with both the facilities and the standard of training available at the centre. We currently have eight qualified apprentices brushing up on their gas skills in Kingswinford which will add significantly to their level of knowledge and expertise."*

Our facilities

The Energy Training Centre is based in Ham Lane, Kingswinford in the Black Country and we offer free parking, refreshments and a break out area for relaxation in between classes.



You can now book and pay online. For information on all courses please contact us:
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Business Skills
A division of Stourbridge College



The National Skills Academy
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

Stourbridge College

HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR BUSINESS?

Health & Safety Expertise on Offer

Business Skills offers a wide range of courses including Health & Safety (NEBOSH, IOSH and Coshh), Leadership & Management, IT, Health & Social Care and First Aid. Working with over 1,000 employers, the Training Quality Standard accredited company offers bespoke training to meet any business needs and delivers flexible solutions and training on or off site at a time to suit you.

Kim Babb, Director at Business Skills, said: "We offer customers personalised guidance to develop and enhance manageable health & safety systems with measurable progress through practical and cost effective management solutions. We support you with all your workplace situations through consultancy, training days and telephone advice."

10th March 2011 NEBOSH course is only £999 when booked in February (limited places available, normal price £1300).



Become a Member

Our Membership Scheme offers support for Health & Safety, amongst other training needs, at four different levels dependent upon your individual requirements. Choose from Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze - all of which include consultancy days, unlimited telephone advice and places on our one day courses.

Phone **0800 073 0282**
to arrange your FREE
introductory 'Health Check'
(quote BSHS1)

DOMESTIC GAS

GAS Foundation

The Gas Foundation course will provide candidates with critical foundation knowledge and understanding that must be gained before entering the gas industry and ultimately achieving Gas Safe Registration.

Core Gas Safety

From 1st April 2009 the Gas Safe Register replaced CORGI registration as the British Standard for all operatives and engineers involved in the installation, maintenance and servicing of domestic gas appliances. It's designed with the purpose of ensuring that every operative has the correct level of skill and understanding which must be complied with at all times for the safety of the customer and the engineer.

Selected Courses



Energy Efficiency

Reducing emissions, lowering energy consumption and conserving water can't be achieved unless the sector designs, installs and maintains renewable and environmental technologies and provides the best advice to customers. The qualifications offered at the Energy Training Centre will build on the competencies within the electrotechnical, heating and ventilation and plumbing industries to help maximise efficiency and carbon savings.

The Energy Training Centre has been given the green light for Environmental Technology Training

SKILLS ACADEMY ON YOUR DOORSTEP

The Energy Training Centre has been selected to lead on environmental training for the West Midlands. The successful bid for approval as a founder regional hub of the National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies - accredited by SummitSkills, the Sector Skills Council for Building Services.

Lynette Cutting, Principal of Stourbridge College and Business Skills' Energy Training Centre, said: "This is great news for the Black Country. Being nationally recognised for cutting edge training in new technologies shows how we are contributing to environmental challenges and also shows how responsive we are to emerging employer skills needs."

The Energy Training Centre will begin by offering an environmental technologies awareness course before starting to deliver a range of courses including Solar Photovoltaic, Solar Thermal, Rain Water Harvesting and Ground and Air Source Heat Pumps.

Call us now for more information.



The National Skills Academy
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

ELECTRICAL

City & Guilds 2382 -10-17th Edition Regulations

The aim of this electrical training course is to gain familiarity with the layout, content and application of the BS 7671 (2008) 17th Regulations Edition. This course involves no practical work, it introduces the regulations and covers their application through explanation and worked examples.

Part P - Domestic Installer

In order for electrical installers to self-certify that their domestic electrical installation work in England and Wales is compliant with the building regulations, they must be registered with a competent person scheme, such as the NICEIC Domestic Installer Scheme. All applicants to the NICEIC Domestic Installer Scheme must meet a number of requirements, in particular, be able to demonstrate they have the ability to install, inspect and certify.

HEALTH & SAFETY

IOSH Managing Safely

Designed to get you up to speed on the practical action needed to handle health and safety in your workforce, this course will give you the knowledge and understanding of health and safety for employees working in any business sector.

Manual Handling

Introduction to hazards and risks involved in manual handling and outlines what to expect from manual handling assessment. It will enable employees to develop manual handling techniques in the workplace.

Risk Assessment

This training programme has been designed to provide essential knowledge and understanding of hazard and risk assessment and its control for employees working in any business area.

You can now book and pay online. For information on all courses please contact us:
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